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Prairie Research Institute
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2017-2018 Illinois Trapper Report: Harvest, Effort, and Marketing Practices



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ILLINOIS TRAPPER REPORT:
Harvest, Effort, and Marketing Practices

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HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-27
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Wayne Rosenthal, Director
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^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

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^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

ABSTRACT

We sampled 1,200 purchasers of 2017 resident Illinois trapping licenses from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources licensing database. Licensees were mailed a 4-page questionnaire, and we received 733 (62%) questionnaires. Trapping license sales increased 11% from 2016 (5,352 licenses) to 2017 (5,964). Trappers set an average of 15.8 traps for an average of 26.4 days or nights during the 2017-18 season and harvested an estimated 134,560 furbearers (up 7% from the 125,605 harvested in 2016-17). An estimated 64,025 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) were trapped during the 2017-18 Illinois trapping season, an increase of 11.7% from the estimated 57,324 trapped during the 2016-17 season. Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) harvest was the next highest at 18,795 muskrats (22.4% decrease from the previous year).

OBJECTIVE

To survey furbearer (12 species of mammals) trappers annually to determine their activities, harvests, characteristics, and opinions in Illinois.

METHODS

A random sample of 1,200 resident Illinois trappers who purchased a trapper license (2017-2018) was selected from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) license sales database. Each trapper was mailed a 4-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope on 30 April 2018. The initial sample of 1,200 licenses was reduced to 1,181 due to undeliverable addresses. Nonrespondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 15 May 2018. Remaining non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 01 June 2018. Trappers who did not respond to the previous mailings were mailed a second thank you/reminder postcard on 15 June 2018. Season date information can be located in Appendix E.

RESULTS

A total of 735 license purchasers responded to the survey. Of these, 733 were considered usable, resulting in a 62% response rate. Using procedures adopted by Anderson and Campbell (1992), we calculated trapper participation and harvest for all furbearer species in Illinois (Tables 1-27). The results were organized by wildlife management units (WMUs, Appendix F), furbearer management zones, and statewide for presentation.

Trapper Participation

Of the 733 license purchasers in our sample, 445 (61%) set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2017-2018 season (Figure 1). Active trappers set an average of 15.8 traps for an average of 26.4 days or nights (Figure 2). Maximum number of days a trapper could have trapped was 147; 24.3% set traps for > 30 days and 15.5% of trappers set traps for > 45 days (Figure 3).

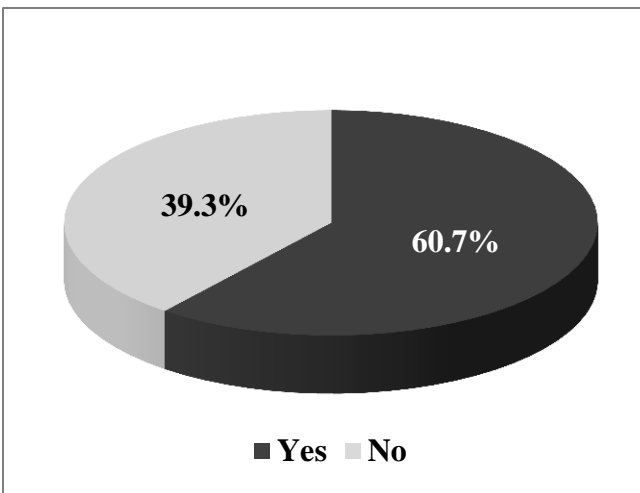


Figure 1. License purchasers that set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2017-2018 trapping season ($n=733$).

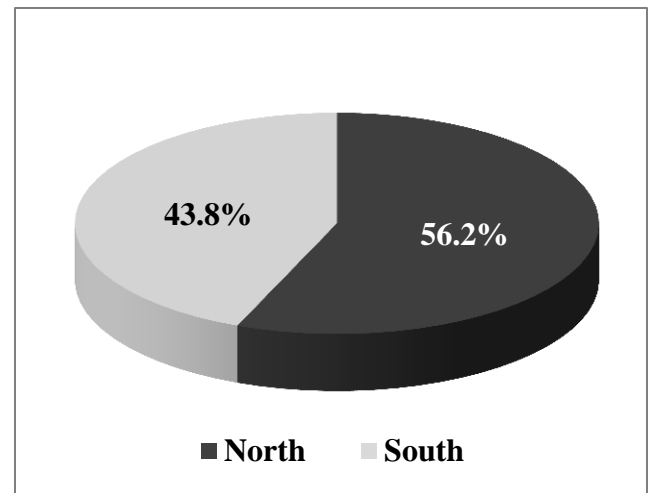


Figure 2. Distribution of active trappers by zones in Illinois ($n=445$).

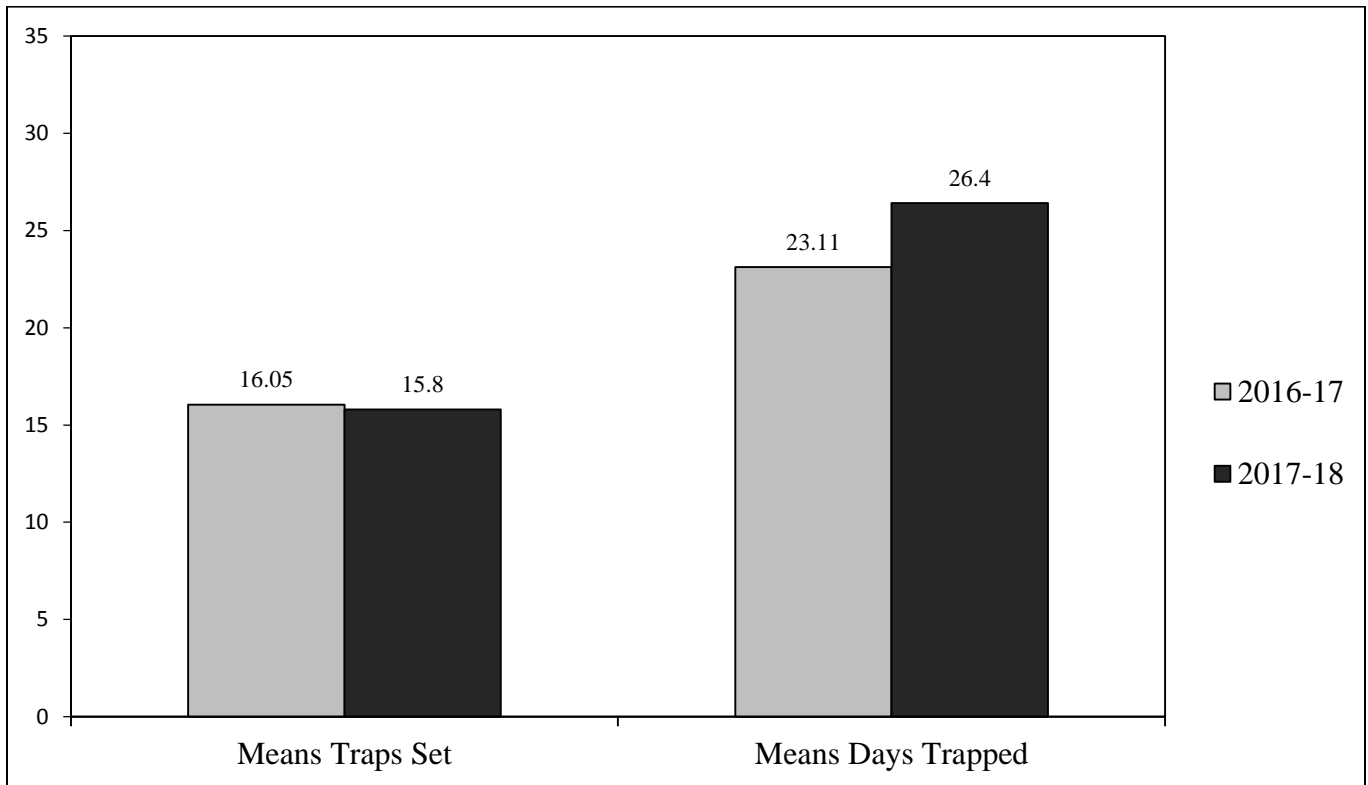


Figure 3. Comparison of trapping activity reported in 2017-2018 and 2016-2017 Illinois Trapper Survey.

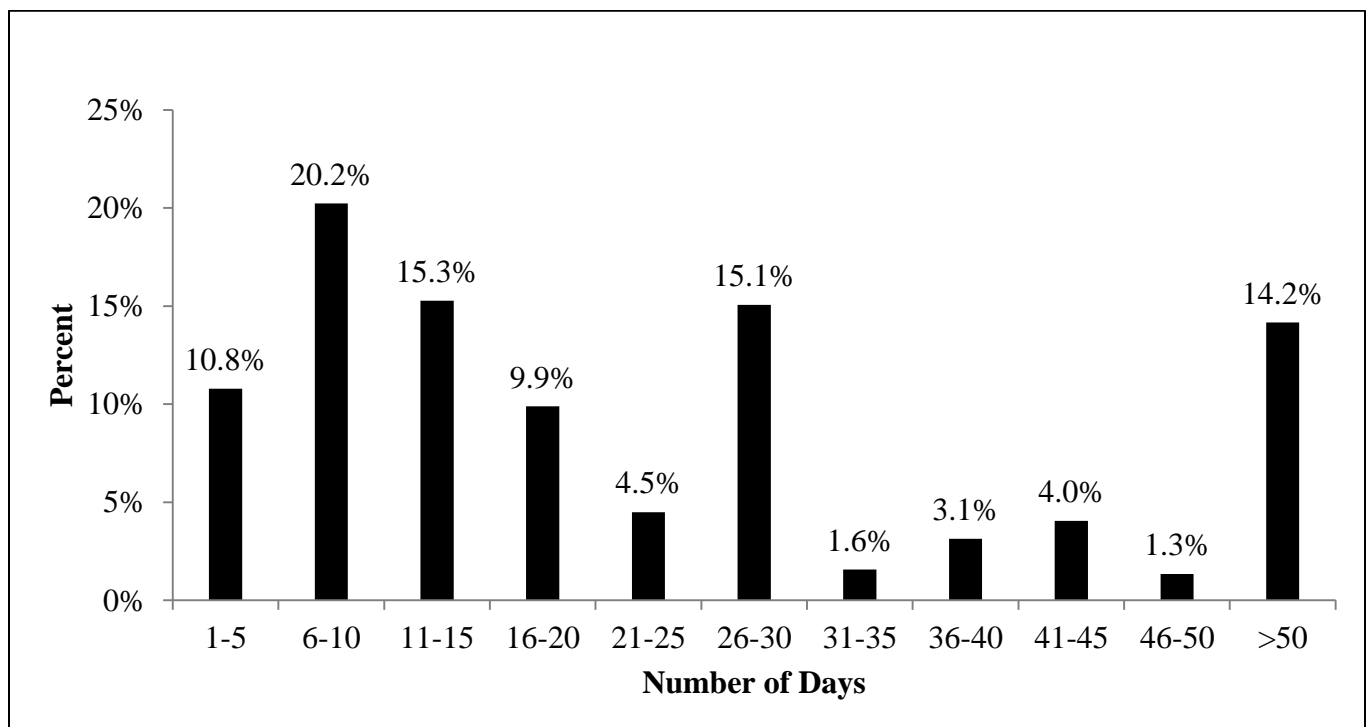


Figure 4. Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers in Illinois, 2017-2018 season (n=445).

Participation during the 2017-18 season was highest among raccoon trappers, estimated at 2,709 successful trappers statewide (Table 3), an increase of 8.3% from the 2016-17 trapping season (Williams et al. 2017). Opossum trapping was second with 1,538 successful trappers, followed by coyote (*Canis latrans*; 1,448 successful trappers), beaver (*Castor canadensis*; 1,343 successful trappers), and muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*; 1,326 successful trappers). Equal numbers of estimated trappers were successful in capturing striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*; 708 successful trappers) and otter (*Lontra canadensis*; 708 successful trappers). Mink (*Neovison vison*; 683 successful trappers), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*; 464 successful trappers), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*; 146 successful trappers), badger (*Taxidea taxus*; 65 successful trappers), weasel (*Mustela frenata* and *nivalis*; 33 successful trappers), and gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*; 16 successful trappers) were the least often trapped species.

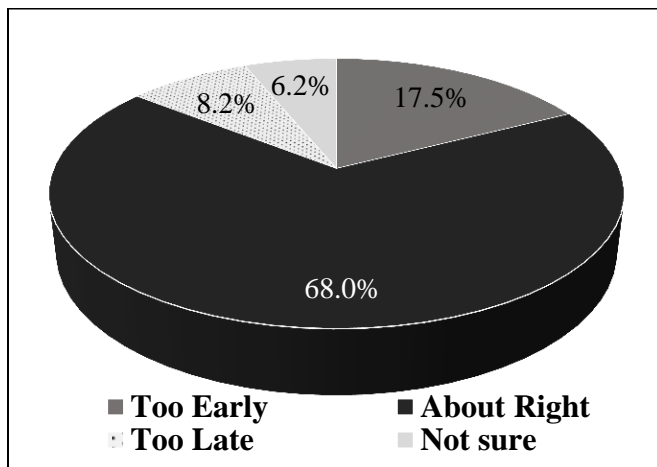


Figure 5. South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2017-18 opening date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1 day trapping in 2017-18 (n=194).

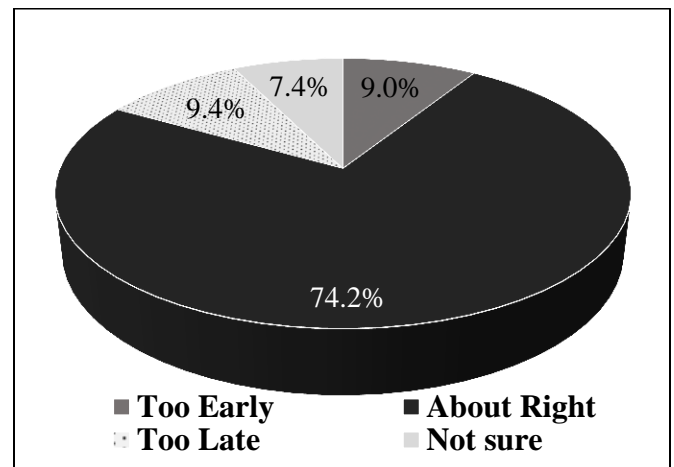


Figure 6. North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2017-18 opening date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1 day trapping in 2017-18 (n=244)

Trappers who spent at least one day trapping were asked to give their opinion of the timing of opening and closing dates in the zone they hunted. Sixty-eight percent of trappers in the southern zone said that the opening date was about right (Figure 5), as compared to 74.2% in the northern zone (Figure 6). A majority of southern zone trappers felt the closing dates were about right, and 30.3% indicated it was too early (Figure 7). Most northern zone trappers (69%) felt the closing dates were about right (Figure 8).

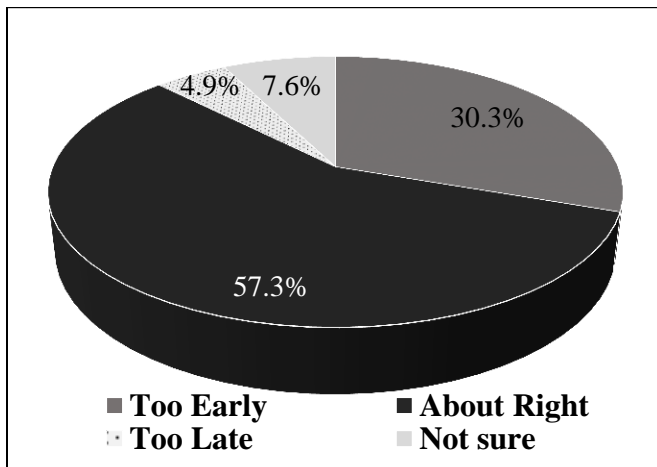


Figure 7. South Zone trappers' opinion of the 2017-18 closing date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1 day trapping in 2017-18 (n=185).

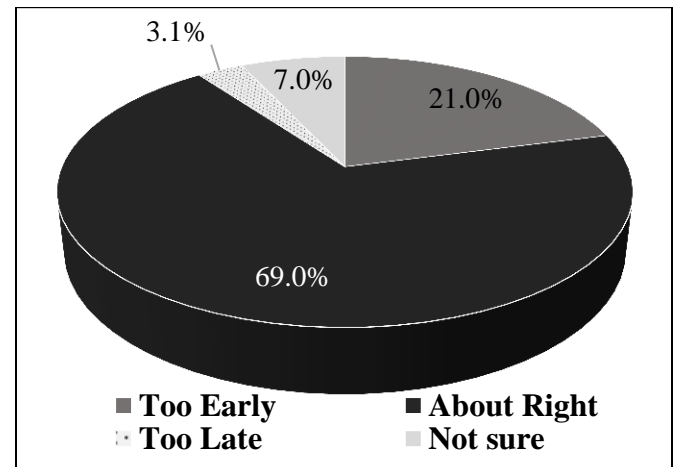


Figure 8. North Zone trappers' opinion of the 2017-18 closing date. *Selected for those who spent at least 1 day trapping in 2017-18 (n=229)

Harvest

An estimated 64,025 raccoons were trapped by trappers during the 2017-18 Illinois trapping season (Table 3), which was an increase of 12% from the estimated 57,324 trapped during the 2016-17 season. Muskrat harvest was the next highest at 18,795 muskrats trapped (22.4% decrease from previous year), followed by opossum (16,753; 14% increase from previous year), coyote (16,525; 32% increase from previous year), beaver (11,179; 11% increase from previous year), striped skunk (2,539; 8% increase from previous year), and mink (1,969; 0.7% decrease from previous year). The number of muskrats harvested averaged 14.17 per trapper and ranged from 1-130 (Figure 9), and the number of raccoons harvested averaged 23.63 per trapper and ranged from 1-309 (Figure 10). Confidence intervals (95%) for trapper participation and harvest of each species are presented in Table 3.

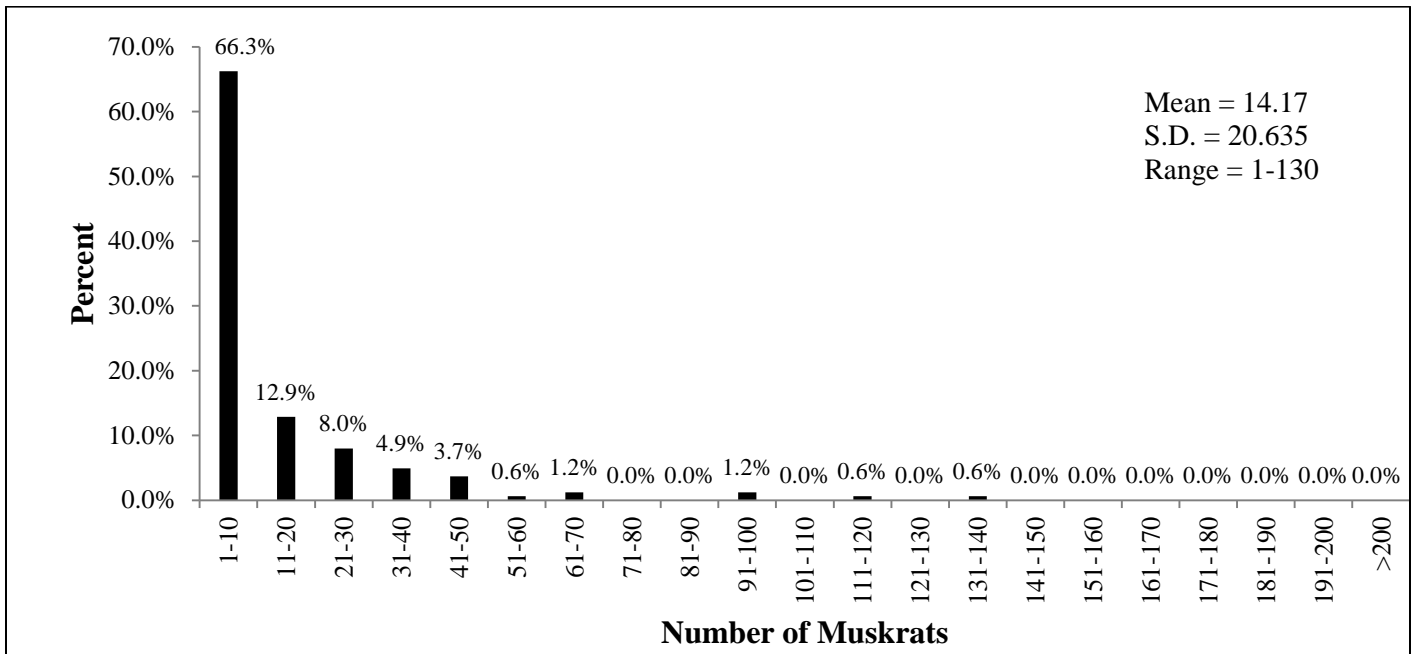


Figure 9. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 2017-2018 season ($n=163$).

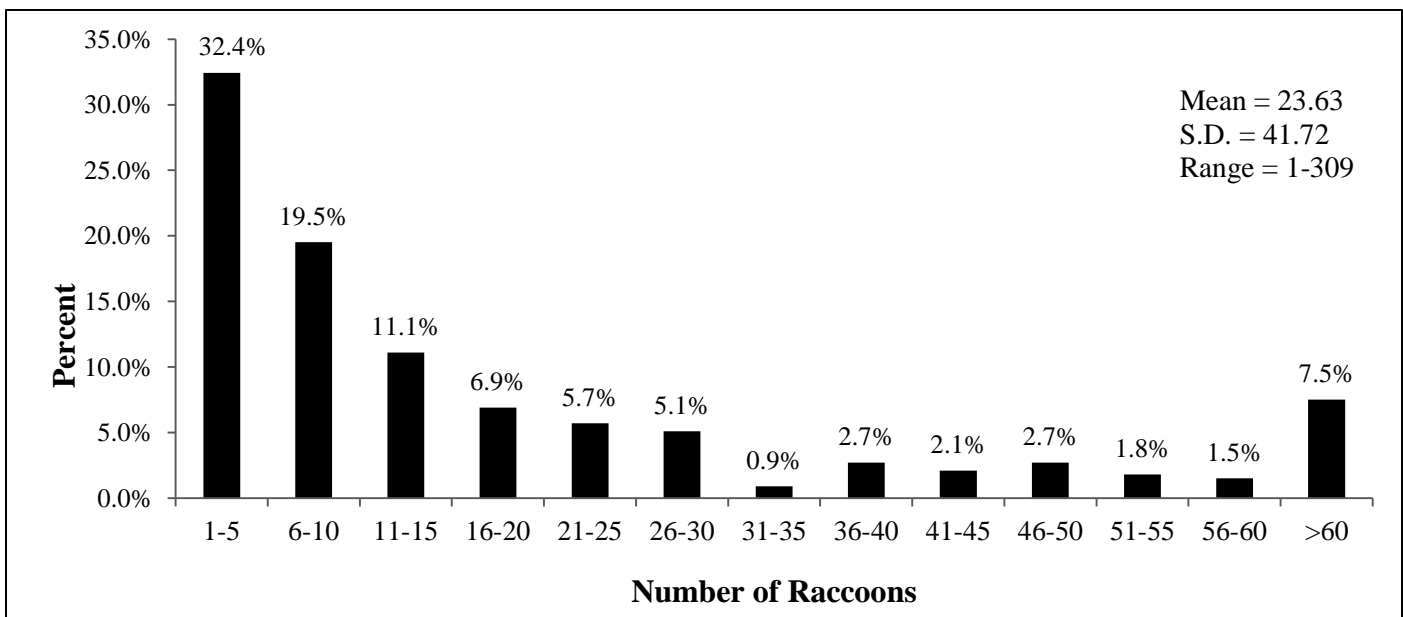


Figure 10. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 2017-2018 season ($n=333$).

Harvest and trapping effort for each species are reported by wildlife management units and furbearer management zones in Tables 4-29. The estimated number of pelts sold in 2017-18 is presented by species in Table 30. Trends in statewide harvests of furbearers for the previous 10 years are listed in Table 31.

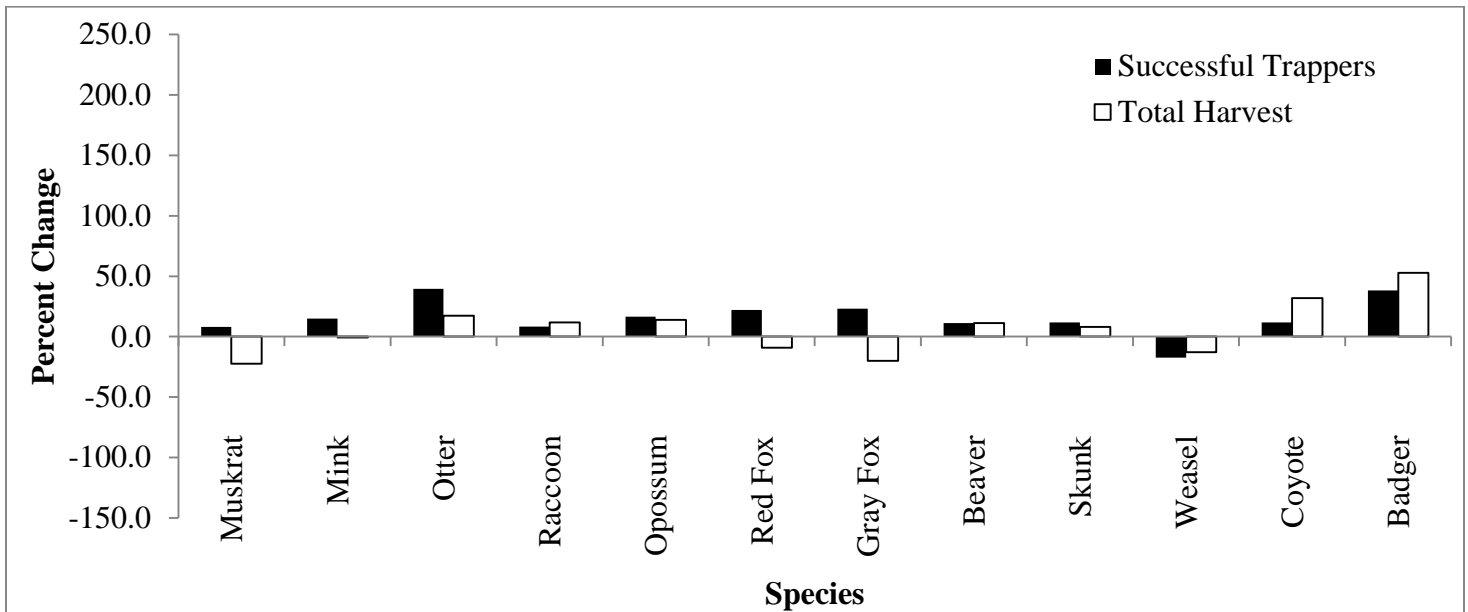


Figure 11. Percent change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species between 2016 and 2017 license years.

Changes in Trapper Participation and Harvest

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping increased 11% in 2017 to (5,964 licenses) from 2016 (5,352 licenses). Average harvest per trapper increased for raccoon, red fox, weasel, coyote, and badger. Estimated total harvest for all other species increased from the previous year. The largest increases in total harvest were for badger (53%) followed by coyote (32%), otter (17%) and opossum (14%) (Figure 11). Changes in trapper harvest over the past ten years (2007-2017) for each species type and all species are shown in Figures 12-23. Ten-year trends for otter and bobcat harvest data have not yet been established and are not included in the listed figures.

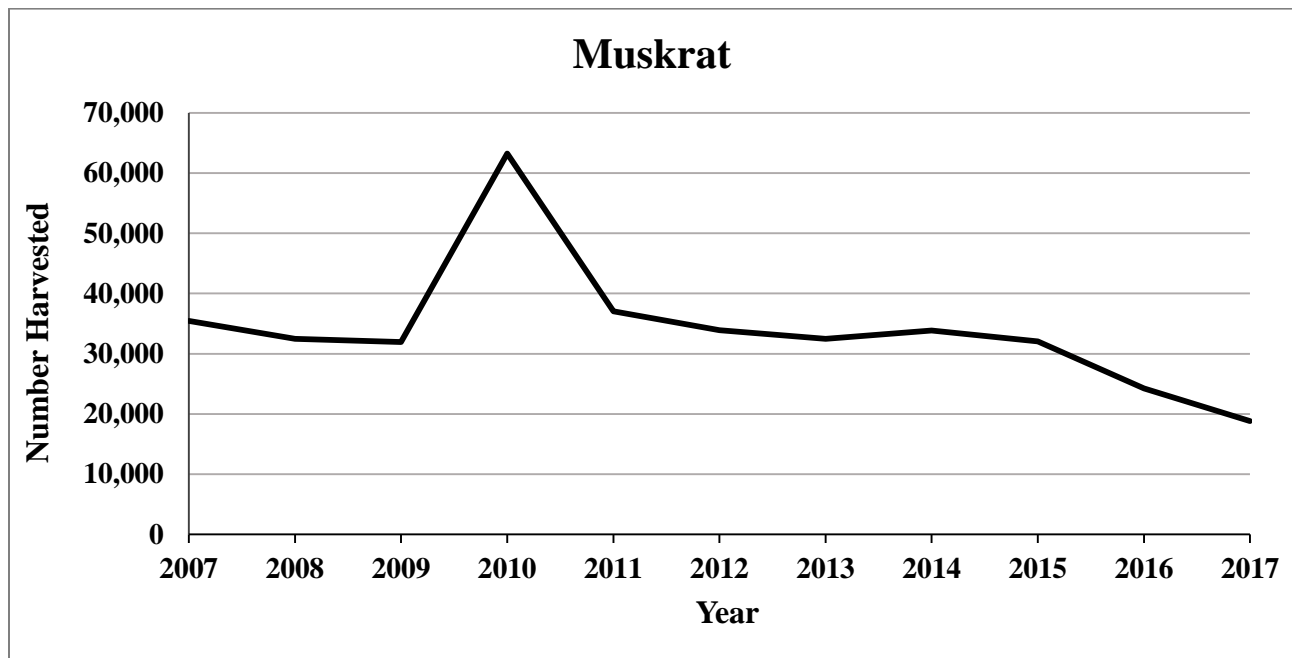


Figure 12. Muskrat harvest 2007 to 2017.

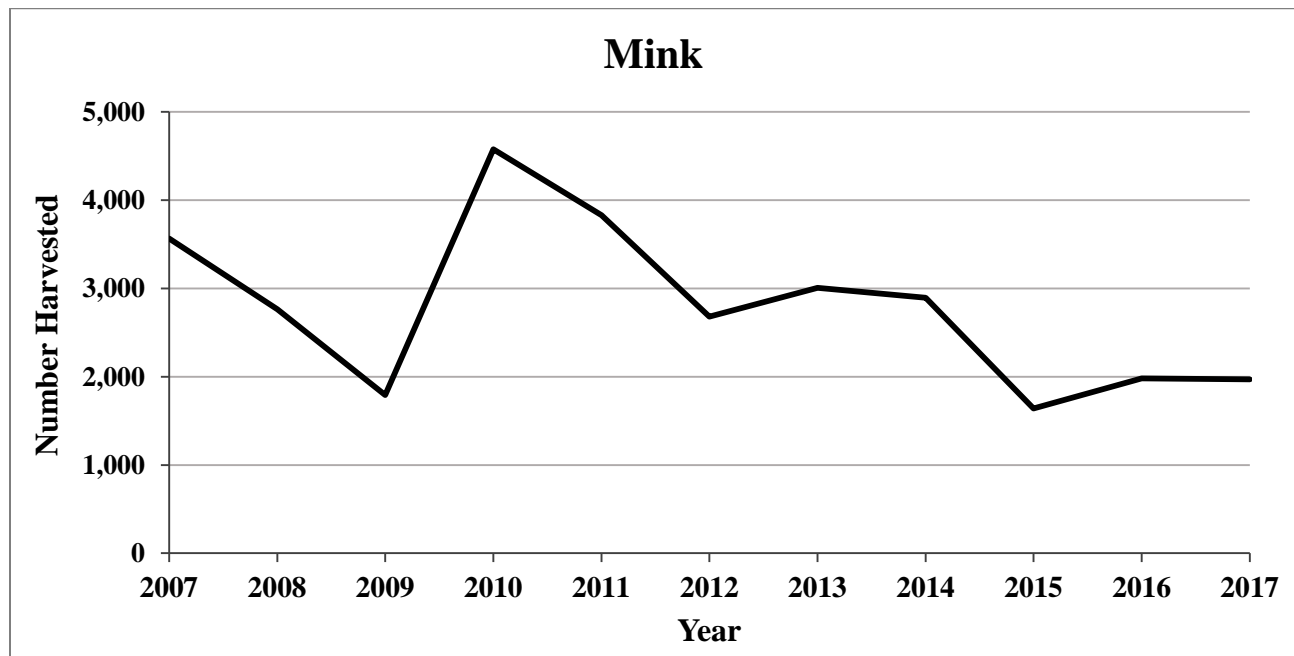


Figure 13. Mink harvest 2007 to 2017.

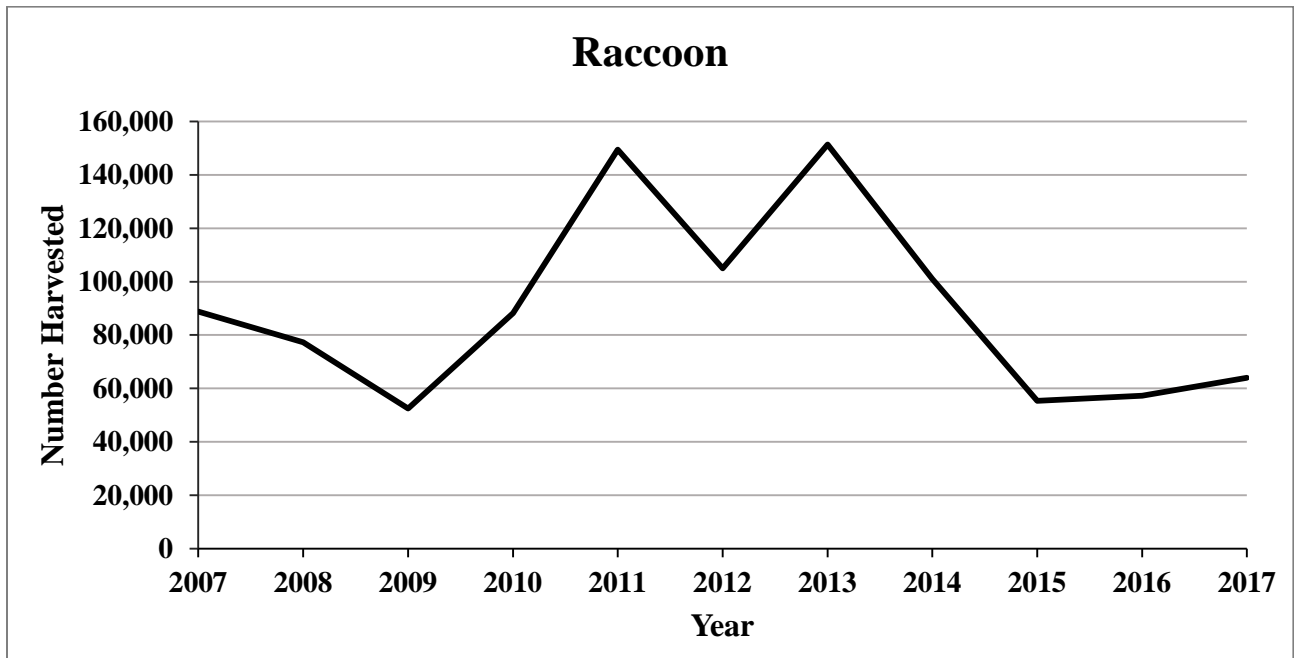


Figure 14. Raccoon harvest 2007 to 2017.

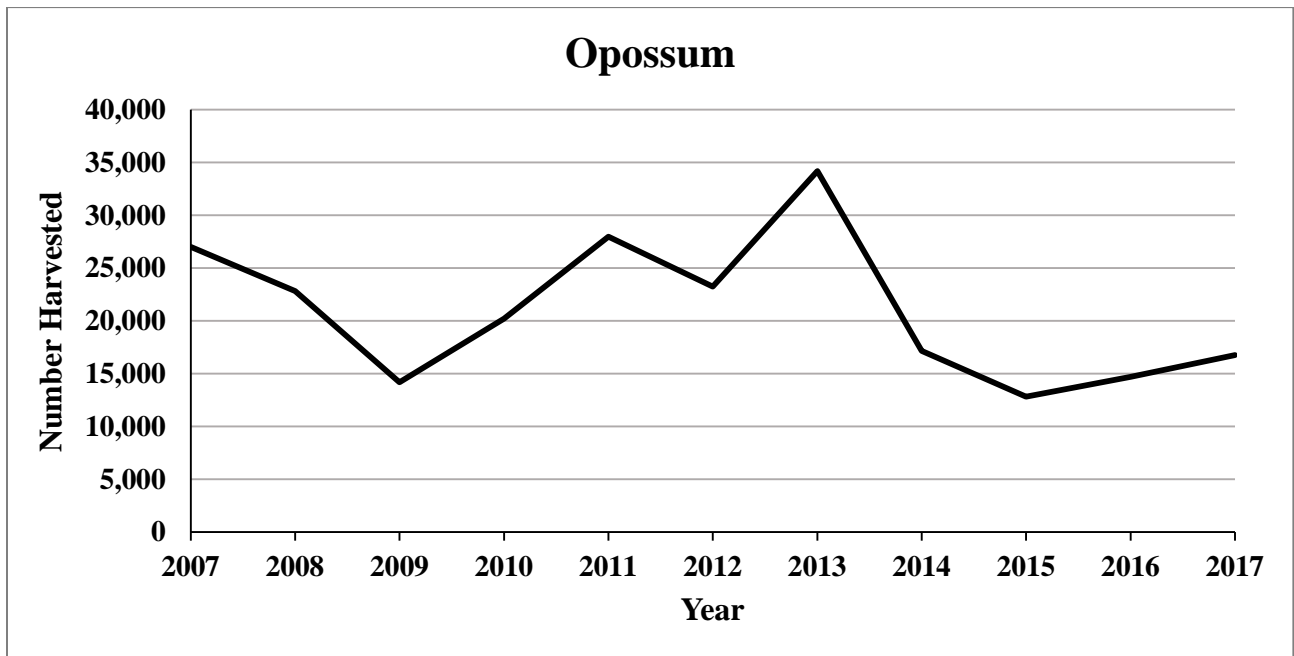


Figure 15. Opossum harvest 2007 to 2017.

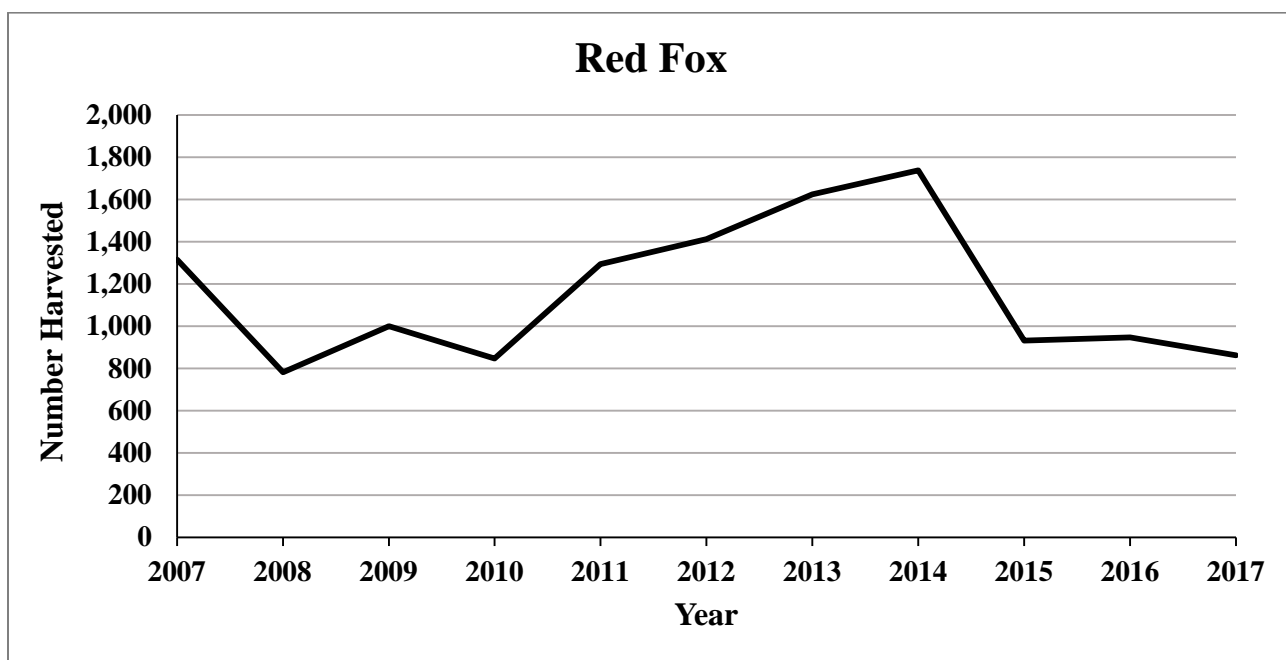


Figure 16. Red Fox harvest 2007 to 2017.

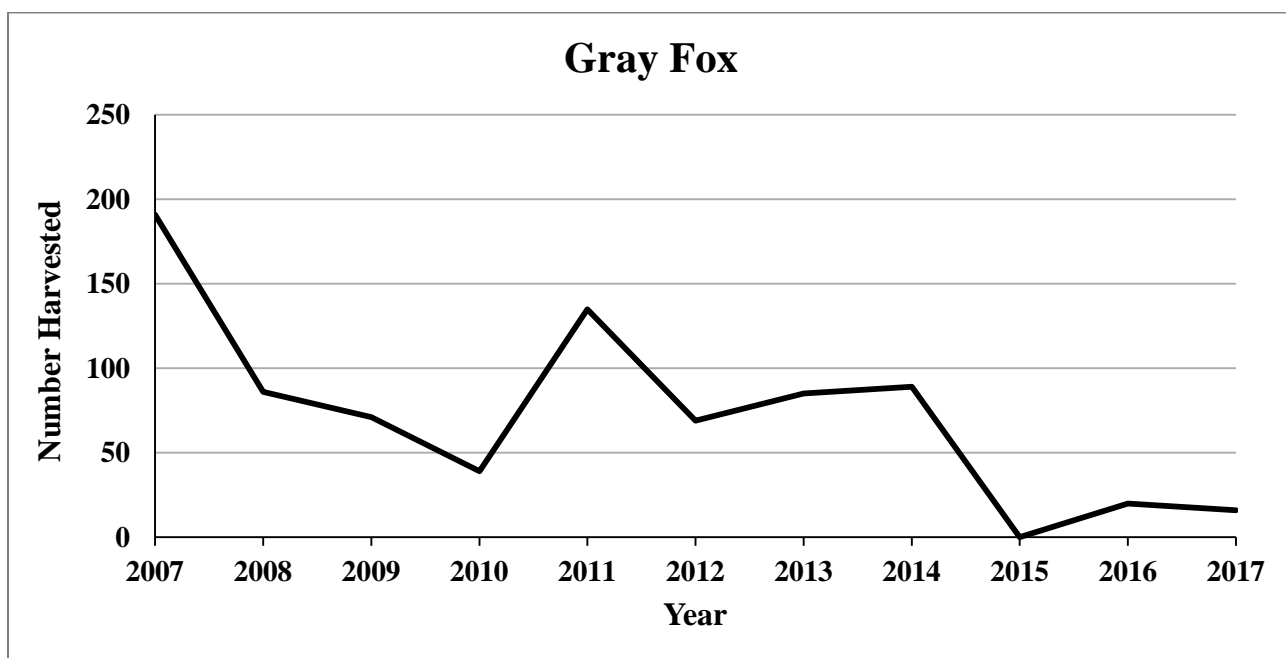


Figure 17. Gray Fox harvest 2007 to 2017.

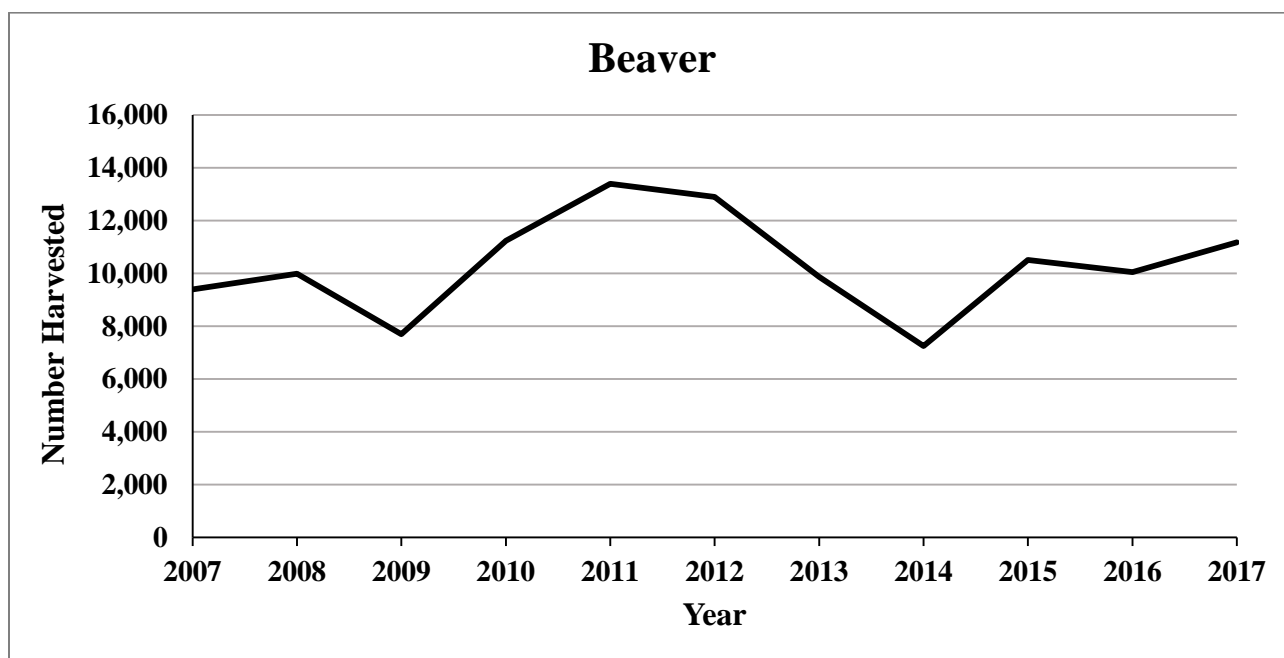


Figure 18. Beaver harvest 2007 to 2017.

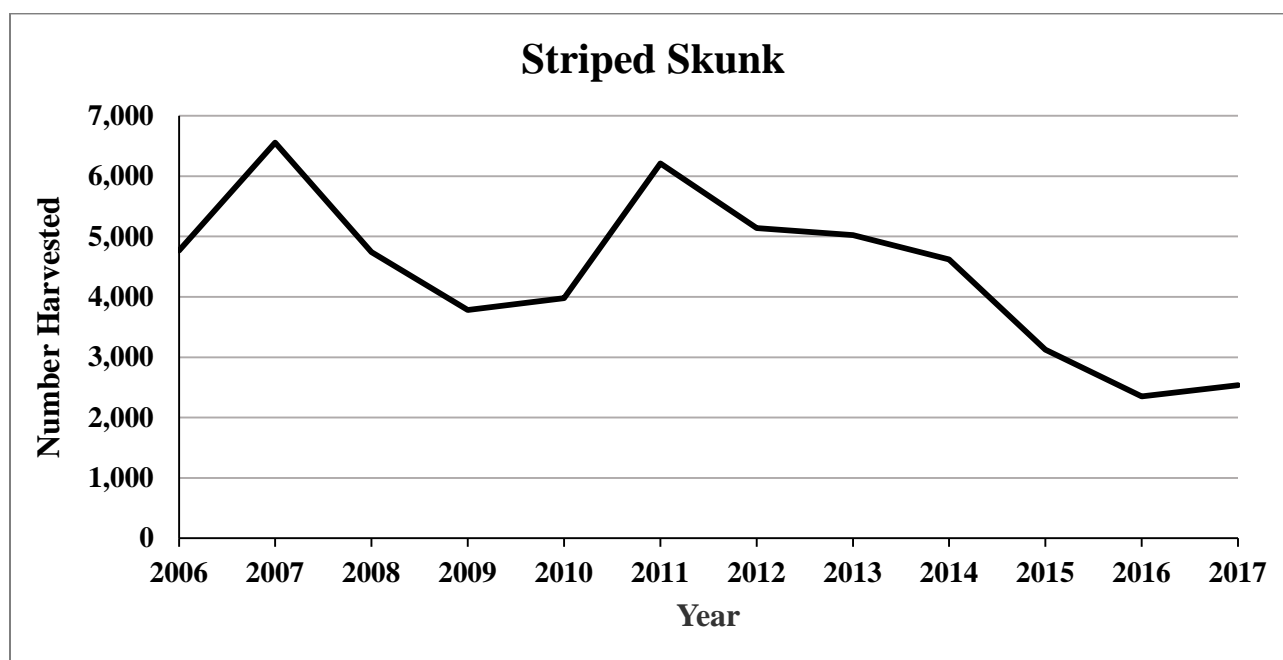


Figure 19. Striped Skunk harvest 2007 to 2017.

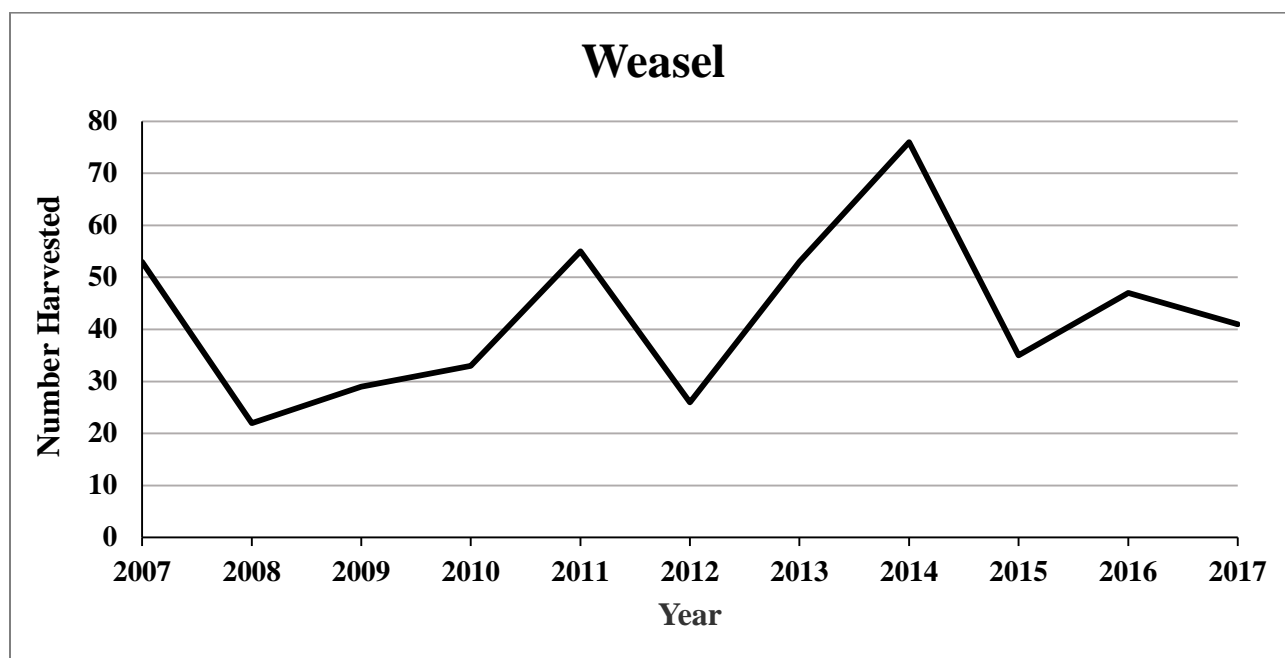


Figure 20. Weasel harvest 2007 to 2017.

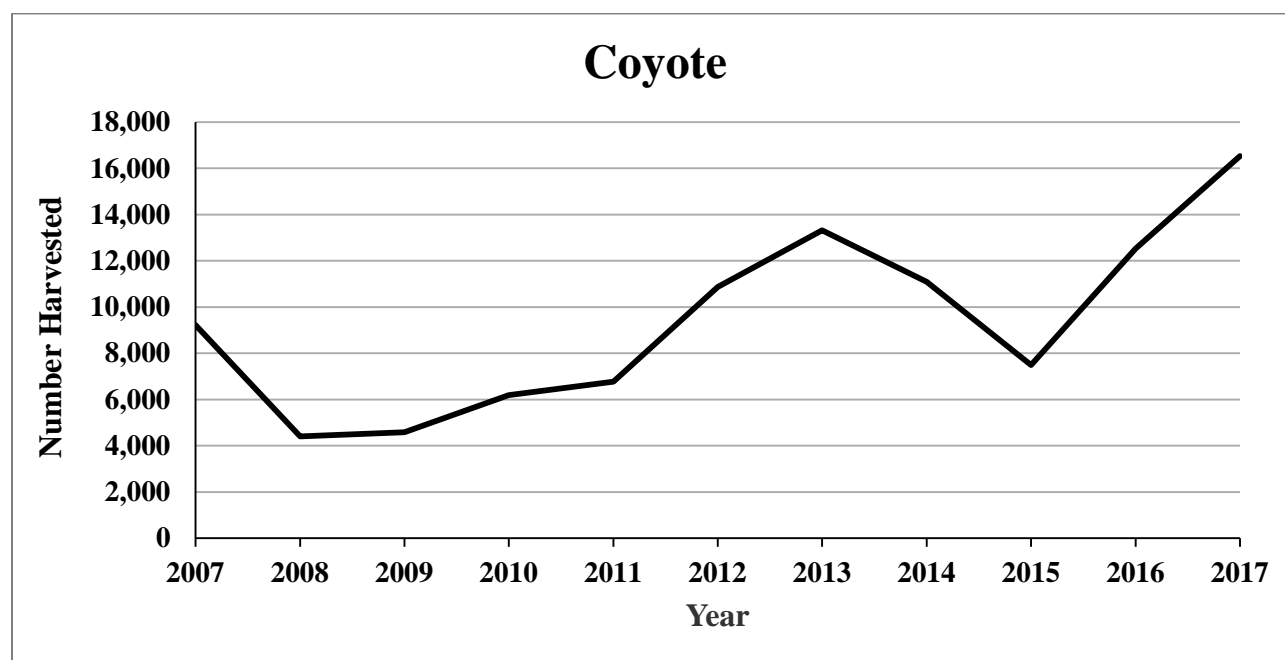


Figure 21. Coyote harvest 2007 to 2017.

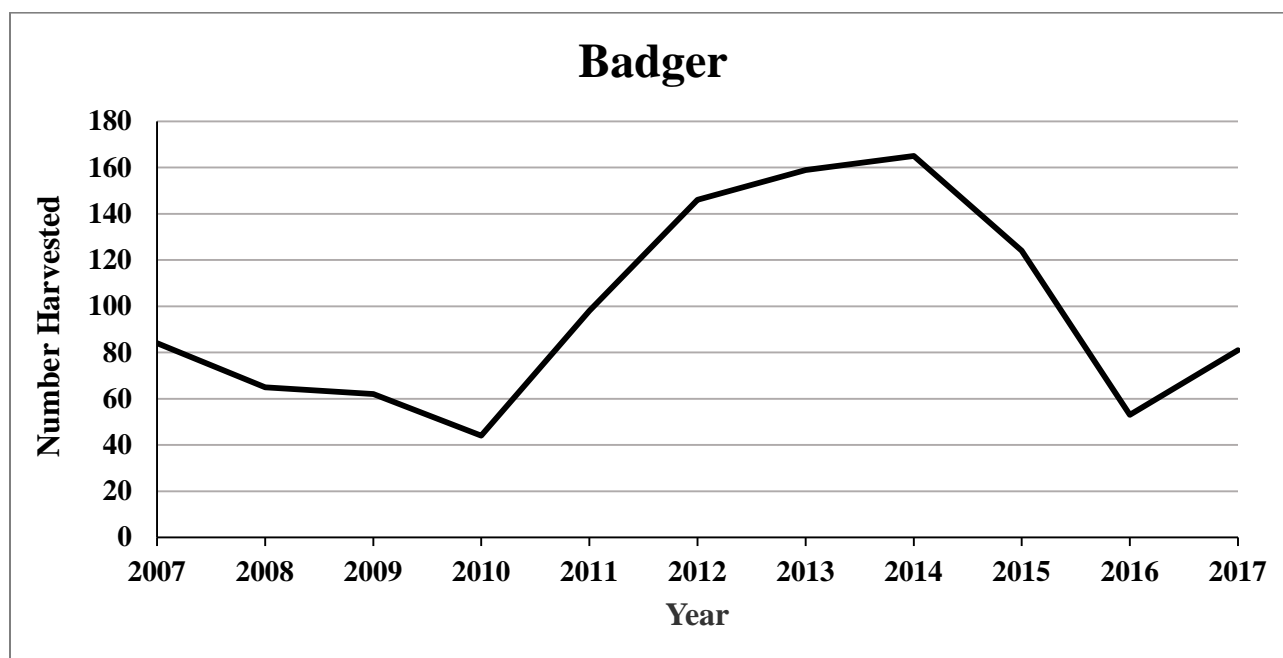


Figure 22. Badger harvest 2007 to 2017.

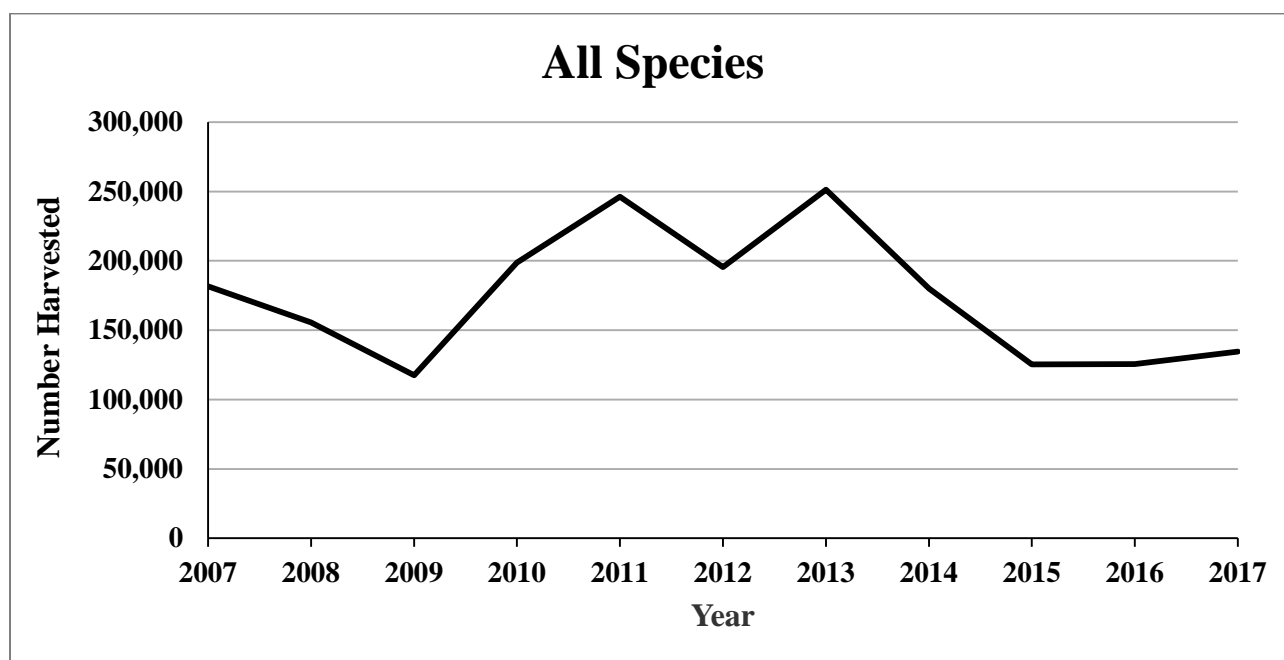


Figure 23. All species' harvest 2007 to 2017. *Years 2014 and prior do not include otter harvest and years prior to 2017 do not include bobcat.

Fur Hunting by Trappers

A total of 203 trappers, 29% of respondents, reported hunting furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in 2017-2018 (Figure 24), which equates to an estimated 1,652 trapper license purchasers who hunted furbearers in 2017-2018. Their total harvest was estimated to be 14,483 furbearers or an average of 8.8 furbearers per hunter (Table 32). More trappers hunted raccoon and coyotes than any other species.

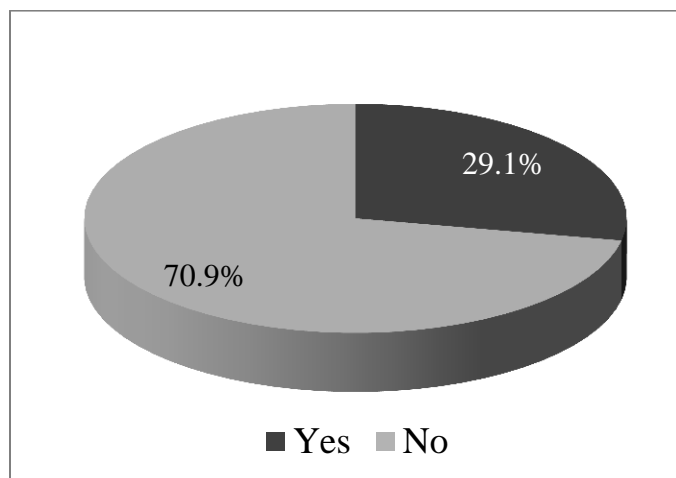


Figure 24. Trappers that hunted furbearers with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2017-2018 season ($n=723$).

Badger Sightings

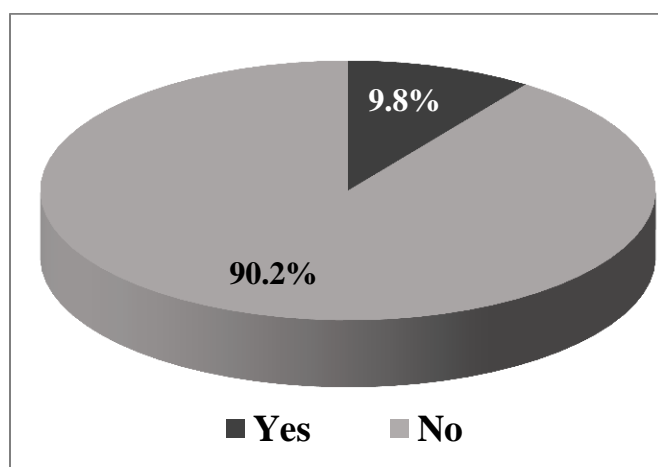


Figure 25. Trappers that sighted badgers in Illinois during 2017-18 trapping season ($n=711$).

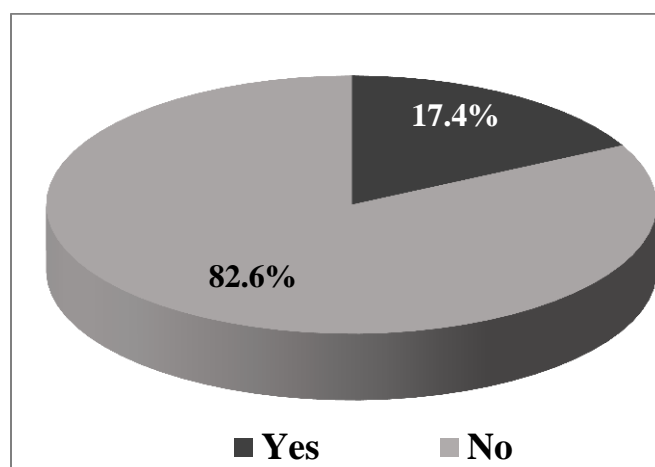


Figure 26. Trappers that sighted signs of badgers in Illinois during 2017-18 trapping season ($n=703$).

Trappers were asked to identify if they had seen any badgers or signs of badgers in Illinois during the 2017-18 trapping season. Almost 10% of active trappers sighted a badger (Figure 25), and 17.4% of trappers reported signs of badgers (Figure 26). LaSalle, Pike, Bureau, and Shelby were the counties reported most often for sightings of actual badgers. Counties most often reported for signs of badgers were LaSalle, Whiteside, Bureau, and Jo Daviess counties (Table 33).

Trapping Motivations

When asked to identify their motivations for trapping, controlling wildlife populations and recreational purposes/lifestyles were indicated as influencing factors by roughly two-thirds of the respondents (Figure 27). Financial incentive was the least influencing factor at just under 14%. Recreational purposes/lifestyle (36%) was the most selected option for the number one reason for trapping in Illinois (Figure 28), followed by “to control wildlife populations” (27%), and “preserving heritage” (14%). “Financial incentive” (2.8%) was the least selected number one motivation for trapping in Illinois.

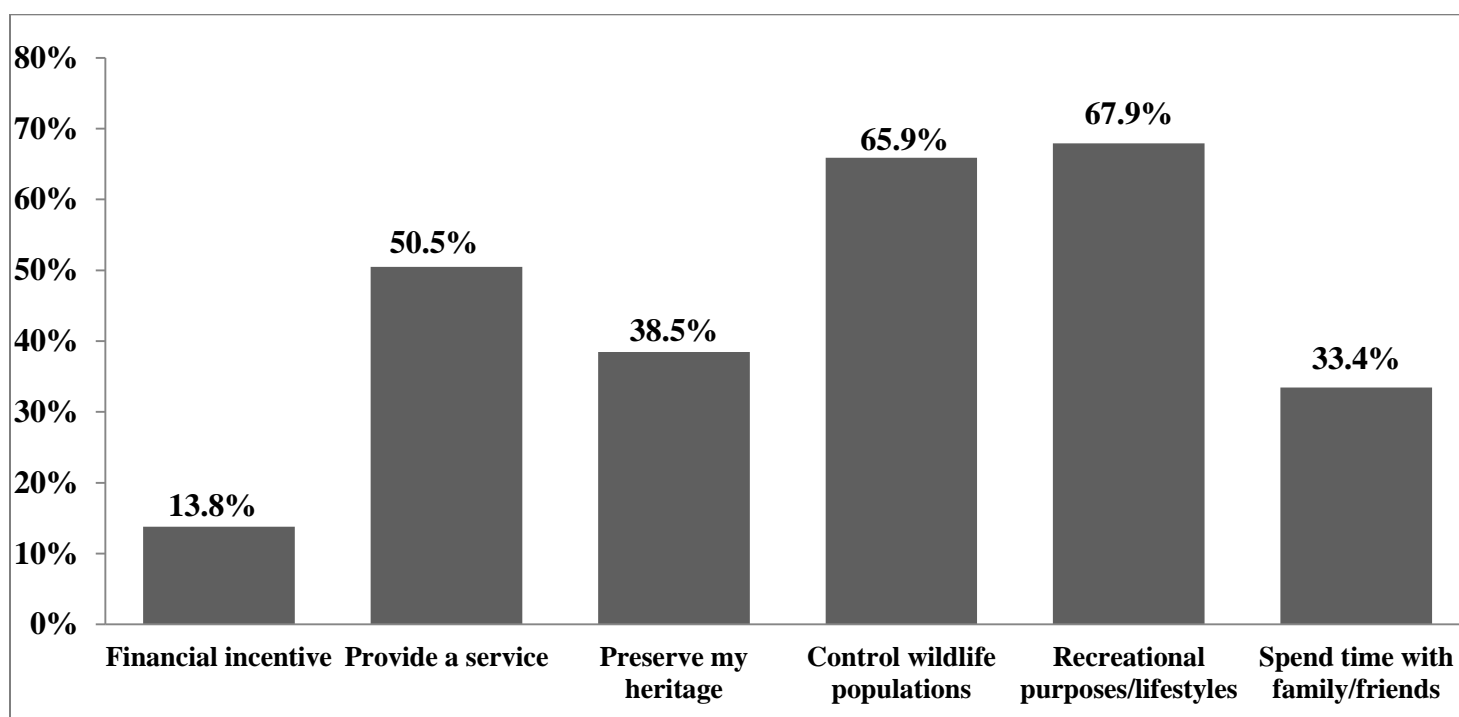


Figure 27. Motivations* for participating in trapping in Illinois (n=733)

*Percentages are greater than 100% because trappers were able to select more than one motive.

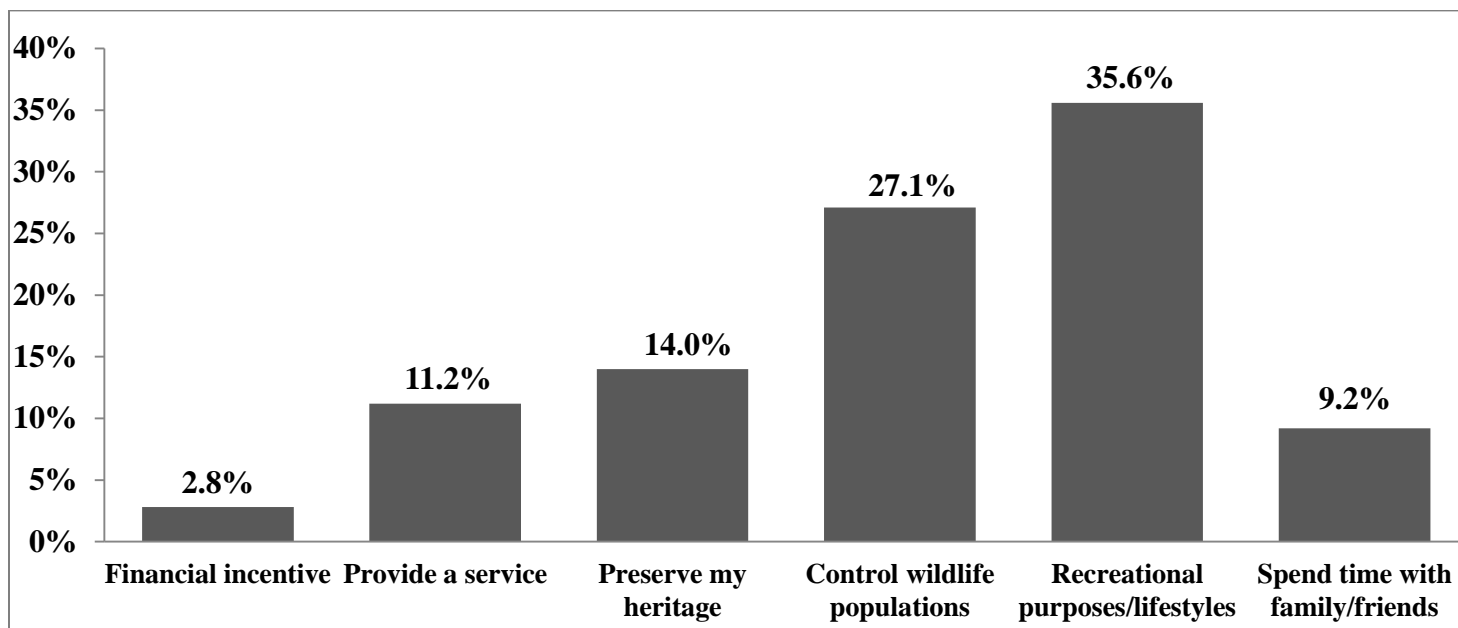


Figure 28. Respondents number one reason for trapping in Illinois (n=705).

General Information

During the 2017-2018 season, Illinois trappers were predominantly male (Figure 29), averaged 50.2 years (± 15.0 , n=705) of age and had been trapping for an average of 28 years (± 17.1 , n=645). Seventy-nine percent of trappers indicated they had internet access in their homes (n=706). Nearly 54% of trappers began trapping when they were between 10 and 19 years old (Figure 30).

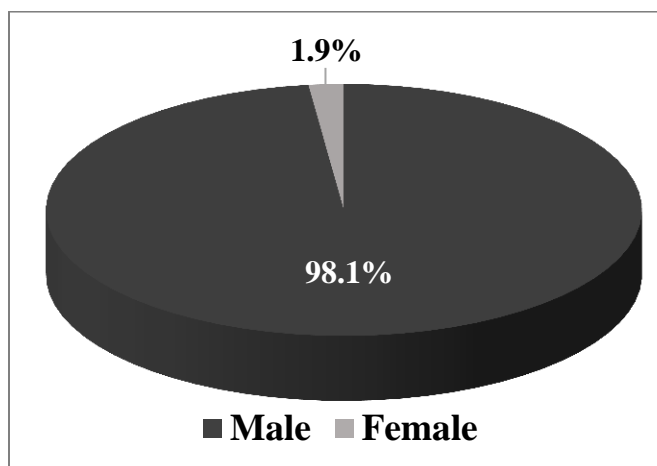


Figure 29. Gender of respondents (n=733).

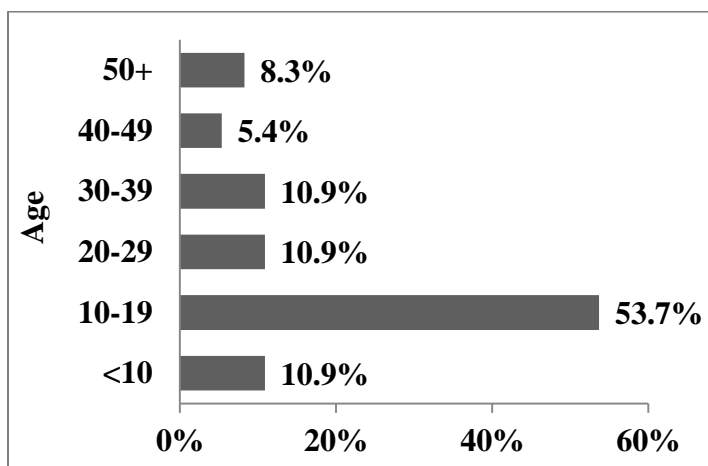


Figure 30. Age of trappers when they started trapping (n=689).

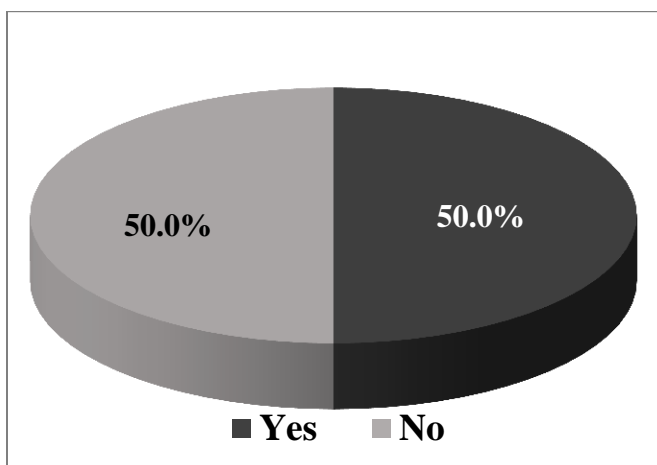


Figure 31. Percentage of respondents who have mentored a new trapper ($n=706$).

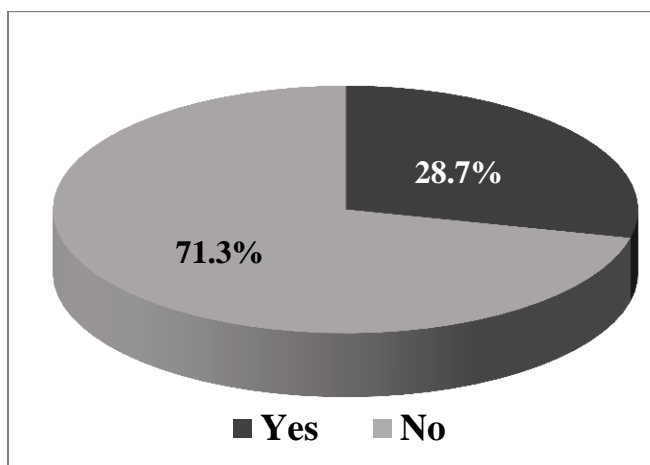


Figure 32. Percentage of respondents who know of someone who doesn't trap but is interested ($n=708$).

Fifty percent of trappers (active and inactive) have e mentored someone new to trapping at some point in their trapping career (Figure 31). Over a quarter of trappers (28.7%), both active and inactive), knew someone who does not currently trap but is interested in learning to do so (Figure 32). Average age of those interested in learning to trap is 22 (± 13.57 , $n=238$). Over 30% of trappers indicated that they were self-taught when introduced to trapping, and another 28% were introduced to trapping by their father or mother, followed by friends (24%) (Figure 33). Most frequent write-in answers were an in-law, an extended family, or internet/game.

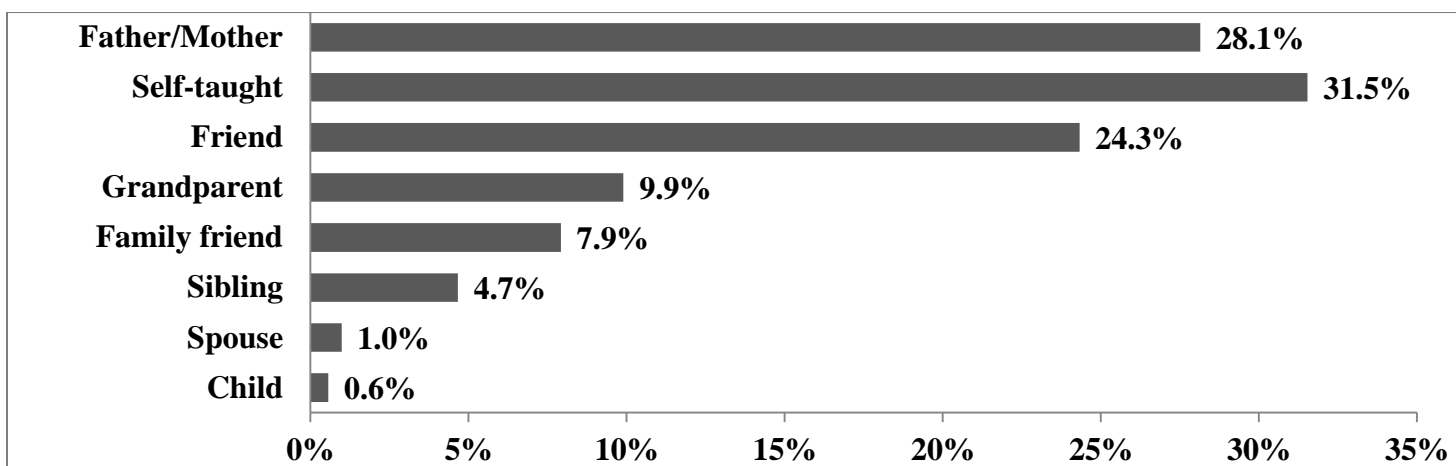


Figure 33. Respondents description of who introduced them to trapping ($n=733$). Percentages are greater than 100 because trappers could indicate multiple introducers to trapping.

Trappers set traps most often (95.9%) on private property (Figure 34). Private property not owned by the respondent (47.7%), their own private property (36.3%), and private property owned by the family (11.9%) were properties where trappers most often set traps. Public property was trapped least often (4.1%) by active trappers. Counties which reported the greatest number of active trappers were Pike, Fulton, LaSalle, and Whiteside (Table 34). The highest densities of trapper residences were in LaSalle, Whiteside, Jo Daviess, Clinton, and Sangamon counties (Table 35).

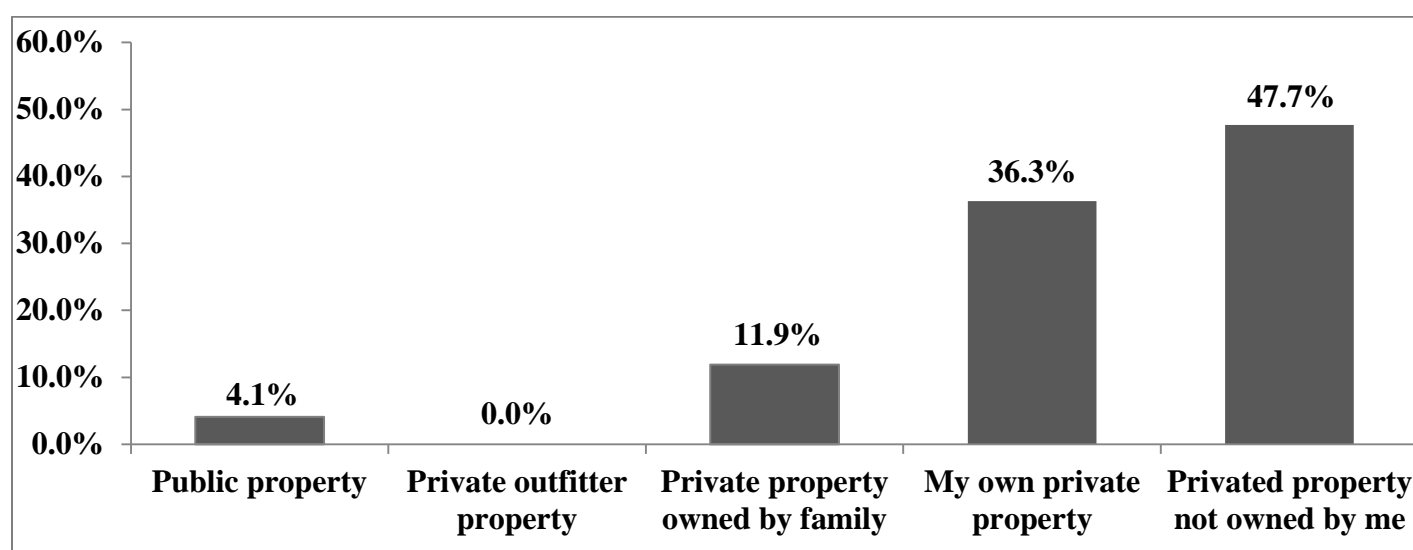


Figure 34. Description of type of land respondents set traps on most often in Illinois ($n=705$).

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Anderson, W.L., and L.K. Campbell. 1992. Fur hunter/trapper survey, 1990-91. Illinois Department of Conservation, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Projects W-99-R-3 and W-112-R-1, Study 1, Job 2, Job Completion Report, 71 pp.

Table 1. Participation and harvest by fur trappers in Illinois, 2017-2018 season ($n=733$).

Species	Number of Reported Successful Trappers	% (Total Respondents)	Reported Harvest by Successful Trappers
Muskrat	163	22.2	2,310
Mink	84	11.5	242
Otter	87	11.9	200
Raccoon	333	45.4	7,869
Opossum	189	25.8	2,059
Red fox	57	7.8	106
Gray fox	2	0.3	2
Beaver	165	22.5	1,374
Striped skunk	87	11.9	312
Weasel	4	0.5	5
Coyote	178	24.3	2,031
Badger	8	1.1	10
Bobcat	18	1.1	18

Table 2. Distribution of reported furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois based on responses to the 2017-2018 Illinois Trapper Survey.

Total Season Catch	Percentage of Trappers												
	Muskrat (n=163)	Mink (n=84)	Otter (n=87)	Raccoon (n=333)	Opossum (n=189)	Red Fox (n=57)	Gray Fox (n=2)	Beaver (n=165)	Striped Skunk (n=87)	Weasel (n=4)	Coyote (n=178)	Badger (n=8)	Bobcat (n=18)
1-5	46.0%	88.1%	100.0%	32.4%	54.0%	98.2%	100.0%	55.2%	81.6%	100.0%	51.1%	100.0%	100.0%
6-10	20.2	6.0	0.0	19.5	19.6	1.8	0.0	16.4	13.8	0.0	19.1	0.0	0.0
11-15	9.8	4.8	0.0	11.1	6.9	0.0	0.0	13.3	2.3	0.0	9.6	0.0	0.0
16-20	3.1	0.0	0.0	6.9	5.8	0.0	0.0	4.2	2.3	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.0
21-25	3.1	1.2	0.0	5.7	4.2	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0
>25	17.8	0.0	0.0	24.3	9.5	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	9.6	0.0	0.0

Table 3. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 2017-2018 ($n=733$), along with confidence intervals (95%) for estimated number of trappers, average season harvest, and total trapper harvest.

Species	Estimated Number of Trappers	Percent of Licensed Trappers	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Percent Sold	Estimated Total Sold
Muskrat	1,326 \pm 183	22.2%	14.17 \pm 3.17	18,795 \pm 5,493	86.0%	16,167
Mink	683 \pm 140	11.5%	2.88 \pm 0.72	1,969 \pm 711	83.1%	1,635
Otter	708 \pm 142	11.9%	2.30 \pm 0.33	1,627 \pm 444	69.0%	1,123
Raccoon	2,709 \pm 219	45.4%	23.63 \pm 4.48	64,025 \pm 14,493	74.3%	47,590
Opossum	1,538 \pm 193	25.8%	10.89 \pm 2.51	16,753 \pm 4,899	17.4%	2,921
Red fox	464 \pm 118	7.8%	1.86 \pm 0.34	862 \pm 300	56.6%	488
Gray fox	16 \pm 23	0.3%	1.00 \pm 0.00	16 \pm 26	50.0%	8
Beaver	1,343 \pm 184	22.5%	8.33 \pm 1.36	11,179 \pm 2,607	64.5%	7,209
Striped Skunk	708 \pm 142	11.9%	3.59 \pm 0.77	2,539 \pm 830	17.3%	439
Weasel	33 \pm 32	0.5%	1.25 \pm 0.49	41 \pm 48	0.0%	0
Coyote	1,448 \pm 189	24.3%	11.41 \pm 3.01	16,525 \pm 5,453	62.2%	10,276
Badger	65 \pm 46	1.1%	1.25 \pm 0.32	81 \pm 68	30.0%	24
Bobcat	146 \pm 68	2.5%	1.00 \pm 0.00	146 \pm 76	16.7%	24

Table 4. Summary of 2017 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=163$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	244	18.4	2.6	22.6	5,516	58.7
Northeast Moraine	57	4.3	0.7	12.4	708	8.6
Mississippi Border-North	65	4.9	0.8	9.6	627	8.0
Mississippi Border-South	130	9.8	1.0	18.0	2,343	17.1
Western Prairie/Forest	130	9.8	0.9	7.4	968	6.7
Central Sand Prairie	33	2.5	0.8	16.5	537	12.9
Grand Prairie	366	27.6	0.7	13.7	5,012	9.5
Southern Plain	203	15.3	0.9	10.9	2,221	9.4
Wabash Border	65	4.9	1.0	10.8	700	10.4
Shawnee Hills	33	2.5	0.6	5.0	163	3.1
Statewide	1,326	100.0	0.9	14.2	18,795	12.9

Table 5. Summary of 2017 MINK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=84$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	122	17.9	1.3	3.0	366	3.9
Northeast Moraine	16	2.4	0.2	3.0	49	0.6
Mississippi Border-North	41	6.0	0.5	1.0	41	0.5
Mississippi Border-South	98	14.3	0.7	2.5	244	1.8
Western Prairie/Forest	49	7.1	0.3	2.8	138	1.0
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	203	29.8	0.4	2.7	545	1.0
Southern Plain	106	15.5	0.4	4.4	464	2.0
Wabash Border	41	6.0	0.6	2.8	114	1.7
Shawnee Hills	8	1.2	0.2	1.0	8	0.2
Statewide	683	100.0	0.5	2.9	1,969	1.3

Table 6. Summary of 2017 OTTER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=87$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	90	3.3	1.0	2.3	203	2.2
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	41	1.5	0.5	3.2	130	1.7
Mississippi Border-South	65	2.4	0.5	2.3	146	1.1
Western Prairie/Forest	106	3.9	0.7	1.9	203	1.4
Central Sand Prairie	16	0.6	0.4	3.5	57	1.4
Grand Prairie	163	6.0	0.3	1.8	285	0.5
Southern Plain	155	5.7	0.7	2.9	456	1.9
Wabash Border	41	1.5	0.6	1.8	73	1.1
Shawnee Hills	33	1.2	0.6	2.3	73	1.4
Statewide	708	26.1	0.5	2.3	1,627	1.1

Table 7. Summary of 2017 RACCOON trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=333$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	366	13.5	3.9	24.1	8,828	93.9
Northeast Moraine	73	2.7	0.9	9.7	708	8.6
Mississippi Border-North	114	4.2	1.5	23.9	2,718	34.6
Mississippi Border-South	350	12.9	2.6	20.6	7,201	52.7
Western Prairie/Forest	350	12.9	2.4	30.8	10,773	74.7
Central Sand Prairie	33	1.2	0.8	7.8	252	6.1
Grand Prairie	781	28.8	1.5	15.7	12,229	23.2
Southern Plain	472	17.4	2.0	37.7	17,802	75.0
Wabash Border	106	3.9	1.6	24.3	2,571	38.1
Shawnee Hills	65	2.4	1.2	14.5	944	18.1
Statewide	2,709	100.0	1.9	23.6	64,025	43.8

Table 8. Summary of 2017 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=189$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	212	13.8	2.3	20.4	4,320	46.0
Northeast Moraine	57	3.7	0.7	7.3	415	5.0
Mississippi Border-North	73	4.8	0.9	5.4	399	5.1
Mississippi Border-South	195	12.7	1.4	9.5	1,847	13.5
Western Prairie/Forest	171	11.1	1.2	13.0	2,221	15.4
Central Sand Prairie	24	1.6	0.6	4.7	114	2.7
Grand Prairie	407	26.5	0.8	6.9	2,799	5.3
Southern Plain	285	18.5	1.2	13.9	3,946	16.6
Wabash Border	65	4.2	1.0	6.9	448	6.6
Shawnee Hills	49	3.2	0.9	5.0	244	4.7
Statewide	1,538	100.0	1.1	10.9	16,753	11.5

Table 9. Summary of 2017 RED FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=57$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	57	12.3	0.6	1.4	81	0.9
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	65	14.0	0.5	2.3	146	1.1
Western Prairie/Forest	57	12.3	0.4	1.7	98	0.7
Central Sand Prairie	8	1.8	0.2	1.0	8	0.2
Grand Prairie	146	31.6	0.3	2.0	293	0.6
Southern Plain	114	24.6	0.5	1.8	203	0.9
Wabash Border	16	3.5	0.2	2.0	33	0.5
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Statewide	464	100.0	0.3	1.9	862	0.6

Table 10. Summary of 2017 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois (n=2).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Mississippi Border-North	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Mississippi Border-South	8	50.0	0.1	1.0	8	0.1
Western Prairie/Forest	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Grand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Southern Plain	8	50	0.0	1.0	8	0.0
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Statewide	16	100.0	0.0	1.0	16	0.0

Table 11. Summary of 2017 BEAVER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois (n=165).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	171	12.7	1.8	7.0	1,188	12.6
Northeast Moraine	65	4.8	0.8	9.8	635	7.7
Mississippi Border-North	90	6.7	1.1	6.7	602	7.7
Mississippi Border-South	73	5.5	0.5	13.0	952	7.0
Western Prairie/Forest	163	12.1	1.1	7.1	1,147	8.0
Central Sand Prairie	24	1.8	0.6	7.0	171	4.1
Grand Prairie	415	30.9	0.8	6.7	2,766	5.3
Southern Plain	220	16.4	0.9	11.5	2,522	10.6
Wabash Border	81	6.1	1.2	9.9	806	11.9
Shawnee Hills	41	3.0	0.8	9.6	391	7.5
Statewide	1,343	100.0	0.9	8.3	11,179	7.7

Table 12. Summary of 2017 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=87$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	114	16.1	1.2	3.8	431	4.6
Northeast Moraine	49	6.9	0.6	7.5	366	4.4
Mississippi Border-North	8	1.1	0.1	1.0	8	0.1
Mississippi Border-South	81	11.5	0.6	2.3	187	1.4
Western Prairie/Forest	73	10.3	0.5	6.4	472	3.3
Central Sand Prairie	8	1.1	0.2	1.0	8	0.2
Grand Prairie	195	27.6	0.4	2.5	480	0.9
Southern Plain	155	21.8	0.7	3.3	504	2.1
Wabash Border	16	2.3	0.2	4.5	73	1.1
Shawnee Hills	8	1.1	0.2	1.0	8	0.2
Statewide	708	100.0	0.5	3.6	2,539	1.7

Table 13. Summary of 2017 WEASEL trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=4$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	8	25.0	0.1	2.0	16	0.2
Northeast Moraine	8	25.0	0.1	1.0	8	0.1
Mississippi Border-North	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Mississippi Border-South	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Western Prairie/Forest	8	25.0	0.1	1.0	8	0.1
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Grand Prairie	8	25.0	0.0	1.0	8	0.0
Southern Plain	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
Statewide	33	100.0	0.0	1.3	41	0.0

Table 14. Summary of 2017 COYOTE trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=178$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	163	11.2	1.7	6.7	1,082	11.5
Northeast Moraine	41	2.8	0.5	8.8	358	4.3
Mississippi Border-North	65	4.5	0.8	8.0	521	6.6
Mississippi Border-South	228	15.7	1.7	12.7	2,897	21.2
Western Prairie/Forest	98	6.7	0.7	9.7	944	6.5
Central Sand Prairie	33	2.2	0.8	24.8	806	19.4
Grand Prairie	464	32.0	0.9	13.3	6,151	11.7
Southern Plain	269	18.5	1.1	12.1	3,238	13.6
Wabash Border	57	3.9	0.8	5.7	325	4.8
Shawnee Hills	33	2.2	0.6	6.3	203	3.9
Statewide	1,448	100.0	1.0	11.4	16,525	11.3

Table 15. Summary of 2017 BADGER trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=8$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	24	37.5	0.3	1.3	33	0.3
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	8	12.5	0.1	2.0	16	0.2
Mississippi Border-South	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	8	12.5	0.1	1.0	8	0.1
Central Sand Prairie	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	24	37.5	0.0	1.0	24	0.0
Southern Plain	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Statewide	65	100.0	0.0	1.3	81	0.1

Table 16. Summary of 2017 BOBCAT trapper and harvest data in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois ($n=18$).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	8	12.5	0.1	1.0	8	0.1
Northeast Moraine	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	8	12.5	0.1	1.0	8	0.1
Mississippi Border-South	49	75.0	0.4	1.0	49	0.4
Western Prairie/Forest	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	8	12.5	0.2	1.0	8	0.2
Grand Prairie	16	25.0	0.0	1.0	16	0.0
Southern Plain	33	50.0	0.1	1.0	33	0.1
Wabash Border	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	24	37.5	0.5	1.0	24	0.5
Statewide	146	225.0	0.1	1.0	146	0.1

Table 17. Summary of 2017 MUSKRAT trapper and harvest data in Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=163$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	806	60.7	1.0	15.7	12,660	67.4	15.5
South	521	39.3	0.8	11.8	6,135	32.6	9.6
Statewide	1,326	100.0	0.9	14.2	18,795	100.0	12.9

Table 18. Summary of 2017 MINK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=84$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	391	57.1	0.5	2.4	952	48.3	1.2
South	293	42.9	0.5	3.5	1,017	51.7	1.6
Statewide	683	100.0	0.5	2.9	1,969	100.0	1.3

Table 19. Summary of 2017 OTTER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=87$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	366	13.5	0.4	2.1	773	1.2	0.9
South	342	12.6	0.5	2.5	854	1.3	1.3
Statewide	708	26.1	0.5	2.3	1,627	2.5	1.1

Table 20. Summary of 2017 RACCOON trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=333$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	1,481	54.7	1.8	21.5	31,773	49.6	38.8
South	1,229	45.3	1.9	26.3	32,253	50.4	50.2
Statewide	2,709	100.0	1.9	23.6	64,025	100.0	43.8

Table 21. Summary of 2017 OPOSSUM trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=189$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/100km ²
North	789	51.3	1.0	11.5	9,072	54.2	11.1
South	749	48.7	1.2	10.3	7,681	45.8	12.0
Statewide	1,538	100.0	1.1	10.9	16,753	100.0	11.5

Table 22. Summary of 2017 RED FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=57$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	212	45.6	0.3	2.0	415	48.1	0.5
South	252	54.4	0.4	1.8	448	51.9	0.7
Statewide	464	100.0	0.3	1.9	862	100.0	0.6

Table 23. Summary of 2017 GRAY FOX trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=2$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	16	100.0	0.0	1.0	16	100.0	0.0
Statewide	16	100.0	0.0	1.0	16	100.0	0.0

Table 24. Summary of 2017 BEAVER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=165$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	830	61.8	1.0	7.1	5,891	52.7	7.2
South	513	38.2	0.8	10.3	5,289	47.3	8.2
Statewide	1,343	100.0	0.9	8.3	11,179	100.0	7.7

Table 25. Summary of 2017 STRIPED SKUNK trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=87$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	407	57.5	0.5	4.1	1,668	65.7	2.0
South	301	42.5	0.5	2.9	871	34.3	1.4
Statewide	708	100.0	0.5	3.6	2,539	100.0	1.7

Table 26. Summary of 2017 WEASEL trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=4$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	33	100.0	0.0	1.3	41	100.0	0.0
South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	33	100.0	0.0	1.3	41	100.0	0.0

Table 27. Summary of 2017 COYOTE trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=178$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	757	52.2	0.9	10.0	7,599	46.0	9.3
South	692	47.8	1.1	12.9	8,926	54.0	13.9
Statewide	1448	100.0	1.0	11.4	16,525	100.0	11.3

Table 28. Summary of 2017 BADGER trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=8$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	57	87.5	0.1	1.3	73	90.0	0.1
South	8	12.5	0.0	1.0	8	10.0	0.0
Statewide	65	100.0	0.0	1.3	81	100.0	0.1

Table 29. Summary of 2017 BOBCAT trapper and harvest data by Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois ($n=18$).

Trapping Zone	Estimated Trappers	%	Estimated Trappers/ 100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Harvest	% of Harvest	Estimated Harvest/ 100km ²
North	33	50.0	0.0	1.0	33	40.0	0.0
South	114	175.0	0.2	1.0	114	140.0	0.2
Statewide	146	225.0	0.1	1.0	146	180.0	0.1

Table 30. The number of pelts sold by successful trappers (i.e., caught ≥ 1 animal) for 13 species of furbearers in Illinois, 2017-18 season ($n=733$).

Species	Number of Pelts Sold	Pelts Sold in Illinois		Pelts Sold Outside Illinois	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Muskrat	16,167	12,367	76.5	3,800	23.5
Mink	1,635	903	55.2	732	44.8
Otter	1,123	651	58.0	472	42.0
Raccoon	47,590	23,644	49.7	23,945	50.3
Opossum	2,921	1,969	67.4	952	32.6
Red fox	488	301	61.7	187	38.3
Gray fox	8	-	0.0	8	100.0
Beaver	7,209	4,890	67.8	2,319	32.2
Striped skunk	439	244	55.6	195	44.4
Weasel	-	-	-	-	-
Coyote	10,276	6,151	59.9	4,125	40.1
Badger	24	8	33.3	16	66.7
Total	24	16	66.7	8	33.3

Table 31. Estimated statewide harvest by resident Illinois trappers, 2007-2017.

Season	Muskrat	Mink	Otter	Raccoon	Opossum	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Beaver	Striped Skunk	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Bobcat	All Species
2007	35,461	3,563	-	88,784	27,011	1,316	191	9,394	6,558	53	9,216	84		181,631
2008	32,480	2,764	-	77,310	22,839	783	86	9,997	4,745	22	4,405	65		155,496
2009	31,942	1,792	-	52,431	14,203	1,001	71	7,697	3,784	29	4,585	62		117,597
2010	63,257	4,574	-	88,233	20,213	848	39	11,238	3,981	33	6,193	44		198,653
2011	37,068	3,828	-	149,449	27,983	1,294	135	13,397	6,214	55	6,766	98		246,286
2012	33,906	2,678	-	104,947	23,264	1,412	69	12,898	5,140	26	10,874	146		195,360
2013	32,467	3,005	-	151,367	34,208	1,624	85	9,874	5,022	53	13,314	159		251,178
2014	33,860	2,895	-	101,035	17,152	1,739	89	7,249	4,621	76	11,096	165		179,978
2015	32,038	1,641	1,198	55,390	12,829	932	0	10,514	3,123	35	7,488	124		125,314
2016	24,217	1,982	1,388	57,324	14,695	948	20	10,050	2,349	47	12,532	53		125,605
2017	18,795	1,969	1,627	64,025	16,753	862	16	11,179	2,539	41	16,525	81	146	134,560

Table 32. Summary of fur hunting activities reported by trappers^a in Illinois, 2017-2018.

Species	Number of Trappers Hunting	Reported Furbearers Harvested by Hunting	Average Reported Harvest Per Hunter	% of Trappers Hunting Each Species	Estimated Total Harvest By Hunting
Raccoon	90	931	10.3	13.8	7,575
Opossum	24	104	4.3	3.7	846
Red fox	3	12	4.0	0.5	98
Gray fox	0	-	-	0.0	-
Striped skunk	10	35	3.5	1.5	285
Coyote	133	698	5.2	20.3	5,679
All species	203 ^{bc}	1,780	8.8	31.0	14,483

^a Active and inactive trappers.^b Successful and unsuccessful hunters.^c Total for hunters of all species is less than the sum of values because some trappers hunted >1 species.

Table 33. Number of trappers who saw badgers or signs of badgers by the county in Illinois.

County	Saw Badger <i>n</i>	Saw Signs <i>n</i>	County	Saw Badger <i>n</i>	Saw Signs <i>n</i>
Adams	1	2	Lee	2	1
Bond	1	1	Livingston	2	1
Boone	1	1	Logan	2	1
Brown	1	1	Macon	1	2
Bureau	4	6	Macon	1	2
Calhoun	0	1	Marshall	1	2
Carroll	2	1	Mason	2	2
Cass	1	3	McDonough	1	2
Champaign	0	2	McHenry	2	1
Christian	0	1	McLean	2	1
Clark	1	1	Menard	1	2
Coles	0	1	Monroe	1	2
Crawford	1	1	Montgomery	0	1
Cumberland	0	1	Morgan	2	4
De Kalb	1	3	Moultrie	0	1
Edgar	0	1	Ogle	0	2
Ford	0	2	Peoria	0	2
Fulton	0	1	Piatt	1	2
Greene	3	1	Pike	5	4
Grundy	0	1	Rock Island	0	1
Hamilton	1	1	Scott	3	4
Hancock	2	1	Shelby	4	4
Henderson	0	1	St. Clair	0	1
Henry	3	1	Stark	1	2
Iroquois	2	3	Stephenson	1	3
Jersey	2	1	Tazewell	1	1
Jo Daviess	3	5	Vermillion	0	1
Kane	0	1	Warren	1	0
Kankakee	0	1	Washington	1	2
Knox	2	1	Wayne	1	2
LaSalle	6	7	Whiteside	3	7

Table 34. Distribution of active trappers by county trapped most in Illinois based on responses to the 2017-2018 Illinois Trapper Survey ($n=445$).

County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>
Adams	10	Hardin	1	Morgan	5
Alexander	2	Henderson	1	Moultrie	4
Bond	4	Henry	8	Ogle	10
Boone	1	Iroquois	9	Peoria	10
Brown	4	Jackson	2	Perry	1
Bureau	8	Jasper	4	Piatt	1
Calhoun	3	Jefferson	8	Pike	16
Carroll	4	Jersey	6	Pope	1
Cass	2	Jo Daviess	11	Pulaski	1
Champaign	4	Johnson	2	Putnam	2
Christian	7	Kane	2	Randolph	6
Clark	5	Kankakee	5	Richland	5
Clay	3	Kendall	4	Rock Island	3
Clinton	6	Knox	5	St. Clair	5
Coles	3	Lake	3	Saline	1
Cook	1	LaSalle	12	Sangamon	6
Crawford	3	Lawrence	3	Schuyler	3
Cumberland	6	Lee	6	Scott	3
DeKalb	5	Livingston	1	Shelby	8
DeWitt	2	Logan	2	Stark	1
Douglas	2	McDonough	6	Stephenson	10
DuPage	1	McHenry	10	Tazewell	6
Edgar	1	McLean	2	Union	1
Edwards	1	Macon	2	Vermilion	3
Effingham	3	Macoupin	2	Wabash	4
Fayette	9	Madison	7	Warren	3
Ford	1	Marion	5	Washington	3
Franklin	2	Marshall	4	Wayne	4
Fulton	12	Mason	4	White	2
Gallatin	1	Massac	2	Whiteside	12
Greene	2	Menard	5	Will	3
Grundy	3	Mercer	3	Williamson	4
Hamilton	1	Monroe	6	Winnebago	6
Hancock	5	Montgomery	3	Woodford	9

Table 35. Distribution of respondents by county of residence ($n = 733$).

County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>	County	<i>n</i>
Adams	14	Hardin	1	Morgan	9
Alexander	3	Henderson	4	Moultrie	8
Bond	4	Henry	8	Ogle	15
Boone	1	Iroquois	10	Peoria	16
Brown	6	Jackson	7	Perry	3
Bureau	13	Jasper	5	Piatt	2
Calhoun	5	Jefferson	9	Pike	16
Carroll	9	Jersey	9	Pope	1
Cass	4	Jo Daviess	18	Pulaski	5
Champaign	10	Johnson	4	Putnam	3
Christian	9	Kane	6	Randolph	10
Clark	11	Kankakee	10	Richland	6
Clay	5	Kendall	4	Rock Island	5
Clinton	17	Knox	9	St. Clair	14
Coles	3	Lake	6	Saline	2
Cook	14	LaSalle	21	Sangamon	17
Crawford	3	Lawrence	6	Schuyler	3
Cumberland	5	Lee	6	Scott	5
DeKalb	7	Livingston	3	Shelby	11
DeWitt	3	Logan	6	Stark	3
Douglas	5	McDonough	6	Stephenson	15
DuPage	6	McHenry	12	Tazewell	10
Edgar	0	McLean	8	Union	4
Edwards	1	Macon	4	Vermilion	3
Effingham	12	Macoupin	6	Wabash	7
Fayette	7	Madison	12	Warren	6
Ford	0	Marion	7	Washington	7
Franklin	4	Marshall	4	Wayne	5
Fulton	11	Mason	7	White	4
Gallatin	2	Massac	4	Whiteside	21
Greene	7	Menard	5	Will	5
Grundy	6	Mercer	4	Williamson	6
Hamilton	3	Monroe	8	Winnebago	11
Hancock	9	Montgomery	7	Woodford	10

Appendix A

Illinois Trapper Survey: 2017-18 Season



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
&
Illinois Natural History Survey



The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

Section 1. Effort and Harvest. Please answer the following questions about your furbearer trapping and hunting activities during the 2017-18 trapping season in Illinois.

1. Did you set any **traps** for furbearers in Illinois during the 2017-18 trapping season? (Please check **one**).
 _____ Yes _____ No (Please go to **question 8**)
2. Complete each blank for all species **trapped** in Illinois during the 2017-18 season. Report only your personal catch. If you trapped with a partner, list only your half of the catch. **DO NOT include animals taken by hunting.**

Species	Number Trapped	Number Sold in Illinois	Number Sold or Shipped Out of State	Number Not Sold
Muskrat	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mink	_____	_____	_____	_____
Otter	_____	_____	_____	_____
Raccoon	_____	_____	_____	_____
Opossum	_____	_____	_____	_____
Red Fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gray Fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Beaver	_____	_____	_____	_____
Skunk	_____	_____	_____	_____
Weasel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Coyote	_____	_____	_____	_____
Badger	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bobcat	_____	_____	_____	_____

3. In which county did you set traps most often during the 2017-18 trapping season? (Please indicate)

_____ County

4. In which zone do you do most of your trapping? _____ North Zone _____ South Zone
5. What is your opinion of the opening and closing dates for the zone where you do most of your trapping?

	Too early	About right	Too late	I am not sure
Opening date	1	2	3	4
Closing date	1	2	3	4

6. How many days (or nights) did you set traps during the 2017-18 trapping season? _____ Days (or nights)

7. What was the average number of traps you set on your trapline during the 2017-18 trapping season?

_____ Traps

8. Did you **hunt furbearers** with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2017-18 season?

_____ Yes _____ No

8a. If "Yes," **please give the number** of each species taken **by hunting**:

_____ Raccoon _____ Red Fox _____ Gray Fox

_____ Coyote _____ Skunk _____ Opossum

Section 2. Wildlife Sightings. The furbearer species addressed in the following questions are of special conservation concern to Illinois wildlife biologists. Information you provide will help IDNR manage Illinois wildlife to ensure healthy, sustainable populations.

1. Did you see any badger(s) in Illinois during the 2017-18 trapping season? (Please select one)

_____ Yes _____ No (If "No," please go to question 2)

1a. If you did see badger(s) in Illinois during the 2017-18 trapping season, in which county(ies) were they seen?

_____ County _____ County

2. Did you see **badger sign** in Illinois during the 2017-18 trapping season? (Please select one)

_____ Yes _____ No (If "No," please go to Section 3)

2a. If you did see **badger sign** in Illinois during the 2017-18 trapping season, in which county(ies) was it seen?

_____ County _____ County

Section 3. Background information. The following questions provide important information to help us understand more about the people who trap in Illinois. Please tell us about yourself by completing the following questions. All responses will be kept confidential.

1. Please give your age. _____ Years

2. Please give your gender _____ Male _____ Female

3. What is your county of residence? _____ County

4. Do you have internet access in your home? _____ Yes _____ No

5. How old were you when you started trapping? _____ Years

6. Who introduced you to trapping?

_____ Father/Mother _____ Spouse _____ Grandparent _____ Sibling
 _____ Child _____ Friend of mine _____ Family friend _____ Self-taught
 _____ Other (Please specify): _____

7. Have you ever mentored a new trapper?

_____ Yes _____ No

8. Do you know of anyone who does not trap, but is interested in trapping?

_____ Yes What are their ages? _____

_____ No

9. How many years have you been trapping in Illinois? _____ Years

10. On which type of land do you set traps **most often**? (Please select one)

- _____ My own private property _____ Public property (State, Federal, and other public lands)
- _____ Private outfitter property _____ Private property owned by my family
- _____ Private property **not** owned by me

11. Why do you participate in trapping? (Please select all that apply)

- _____ Financial incentive _____ To provide a service to landowners
- _____ To preserve my heritage _____ To control wildlife populations
- _____ Recreational purposes/lifestyle _____ To spend time with friends and family

12. What is your **number one reason** for trapping in Illinois? (Please select one)

- _____ Financial incentive _____ To provide a service to landowners
- _____ To preserve my heritage _____ To control wildlife populations
- _____ Recreational purposes/lifestyle _____ To spend time with friends and family

Comments:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!
Please return this survey in the postage-paid envelope provided.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Appendix B**ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY**

Prairie Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Illinois Trapper,

Your name was selected from the list of 2017 Illinois trapping license purchasers. We are asking you to provide information about your trapping activities during the 2017-18 trapping season in Illinois.

Even if you were not successful or did not trap in Illinois during the 2017-2018 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you.

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.** Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage paid envelope provided.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/>. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at <http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/>.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



Appendix C

Dear Illinois Trapper,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your trapping activities in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. **If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!**

Your name and address will be deleted from our mailing list when your questionnaire is received. Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix D

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Illinois Trapper,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2017-2018 trapping seasons. We have not received your completed survey questionnaire at this time. If you recently returned your questionnaire, we thank you. If not, we have enclosed a second one for you. Please take a few moments of your time to complete this questionnaire **even if you were not successful or did not trap during the 2017-2018 trapping seasons.**

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities.

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage paid envelope provided.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



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Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix E

FURBEARER TRAPPING REGULATIONS				
SPECIES	Zone	DATES	LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Raccoon	Statewide	10 Nov 2018– 15 Feb 2019	None	
Opossum				
Striped Skunk				
Weasels				
Mink				
Muskrat				
Fox (Red and Gray)				
Coyote				
Badger	North		2 per person per season	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
	South		1 per person per season	
Bobcat	See Bobcat Zone map		One by permit only	
Beaver	Statewide	10 Nov 2018–31 Mar 2019	None	
River Otter	Statewide	10 Nov 2018–31 Mar 2019	5 per person per season	
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	Statewide	1 Jun–30 Sep 2018	None	

FURBEARER HUNTING			
SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Raccoon	10 Nov 2018–15 Feb 2019 Closed 16-18 Nov and 29 Nov– 2 Dec 2018 in counties with firearm deer hunting.	Open 24 hours and season begins 1/2 hour before sunrise on 10 Nov 2018 and closes 1/2 hour after sunset 15 Feb 2019. *see archery restrictions	During Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for raccoon, opossum, fox, coyote and striped skunk will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
Opossum			Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat. Limit one bobcat per person per season. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of harvesting a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.
Fox (Red and Gray)			
Bobcat	Year round Closed 16-18 Nov and 29 Nov– 2 Dec 2018 in counties with firearm deer hunting.	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. No time restriction 10 Nov 2018–15 Mar 2019	Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may harvest coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.
Coyote			
Striped Skunk			

Appendix F

Wildlife Management Units and Furbearer Management Zones in Illinois

